

Construction Industry Council

Committee on Environment and Technology

The 6th Meeting of the Committee on Environment and Technology for 2009 was held on 26 November 2009 (Thursday) at 2:30 pm at Hong Kong Construction Association, 16/F, 180 – 182 Hennessy Road, Wanchai, Hong Kong.

Present:	Conrad WONG	(CW)	Chairman
	Andrew CHAN	(AC)	
	Tat-tong CHEUNG	(TTC)	
	Jan-ming KO	(JMK)	
	Peter LEE	(PL)	
	Choi-kai AU	(CKA)	Director of Buildings
	Pun-hing HO	(PHH)	Hong Kong Federation of Electrical and Mechanical Contractors
	Russell JONES	(RJ)	Hong Kong Construction Association
Anthony FOK	(AF)	Environmental Protection Department	
In Attendance:	Jonathan LEUNG	(MHL)	Development Bureau
	TAM Ka-Lok	(KLT)	Architectural Services Department
	Clifford CHENG	(CC)	Housing Department
	Christopher TO	(CT)	Executive Director
	Ivan WONG	(IW)	Senior Manager (Council Services) 2
	Phoebe LEUNG	(PLG)	Manager (Council Services) 2
	Jason SYLVESTER		Velocity Solutions Limited (for Agenda Item 6.3 only)
Apologies:	Wo-hei LAM	(WHL)	
	Wai-wai YU	(WWY)	
	Hau-wai CHEUNG	(HWC)	
	Long PANG	(LP)	Construction Site Workers General Union
	Shiu-ming NG	(SMN)	Association of Plastering Sub-contractors
	Connie YEUNG	(CYG)	Housing Department
	Wing-wah CHUI	(WWC)	Development Bureau
	Hon-kwok WONG	(HKW)	Architectural Services Department
	Kwok-keung LI	(KKL)	Electrical and Mechanical Services Department

PROGRESS REPORT

Action

6.1 Confirmation of the Progress Report of the Previous Meeting

Members took note of Paper CIC/ENT/R/005/09 and confirmed the progress report of the 5th meeting for 2009 held on Thursday, 24 September 2009 at Hong Kong Construction Association.

6.2 Matters Arising from the Previous Meeting

6.2.1 Guidelines on Trip-ticket System

The Development Bureau (DEVB) had provided to the Secretariat with a draft updated Technical Circular on the Trip Ticket System and the Secretariat would start revising the first draft guidelines as discussed at the 4th meeting for 2009.

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6.2.2 Summary Report on Review of Local Construction Standards

The Summary Report was endorsed by the CIC at its 5th meeting for 2009 on 30 October 2009. The Secretariat would arrange for proofreading, editing and publication.

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6.2.3 Task Force on Research Activities – discussion on research funding

Discussed under Agenda Item 6.4

6.2.4 Work plan for 2010

Discussed under Agenda Item 6.8

6.3 Application of Radio-frequency Identification

Members received a presentation from Mr Jason SYLVESTER of Velocity Solutions Limited (VSL) on the application of Radio-frequency Identification (RFID) in concrete testing and precast elements. Members took note that the MTR had used the technology in its Disney Line construction project to ensure the

Action

quality and integrity of the concrete cube testing and were told that VSL was the only company capable of providing such application. While considering the application appeared to be limited at this stage, Members noted that the Housing Authority (HA) was at its early stage of investigating the potential use of RFID in its housing projects. Members considered that the issue could be revisited with the findings from the HA and invited the HA to share its findings with the Committee when it was ready.

6.4 Update on Task Force on Research Activities

Members took note of Paper CIC/ENT/P/030/09 and discussions were made in collaboration with item 6.4.1.

6.4.1 Proposal on Research Administration

Members considered the proposal set out in Paper CIC/ENT/P/031/09 was a good start for the CIC to encourage practical research activities through the rolling budget for a 5-year period while addressing the view of the CIC on provision of research funding on a need basis. A Member pointed out that the logical sequence was to define a research year plan with a five-year projection before coming up with the annual budget and a 5-year budget plan for research activities. Members agreed to the mechanism but given the research funding support arrangement was still new to the CIC, it would be better to kick off the 5-year rolling budget plan first and review the effectiveness of the arrangement within the 5-year period to decide the way forward. Members also agreed to the importance of setting out good practices by the Committee on research project administration and to keep track of the progress of research projects of the CIC as a whole. Members also agreed with the CIC's emphasis that research topics should not be limited to academic research but more on research leading to practical solutions for common problems/issues of the construction industry at large.

While there were comments on the detailed logistics, Members agreed to seek the CIC's endorsement on the rolling budget principle first before working on the detailed procedures. Members were aware of the closest

Action

meeting of the Committee on Administration and Finance (Com-ANF) being scheduled for 27 November 2009 which as the date after the present meeting and asked the Secretariat to try to table the proposal at that Com-ANF meeting for consideration with a view to seeking the endorsement of the CIC at its last meeting on 9 December 2009 before the expiry of current terms of office of the appointed CIC Members.

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6.5 Update on Task Force on Adhesion Technologies for External Wall Tiles

Members took note of the Paper CIC/ENT/P/032/09 and supported the research proposal. The Secretariat would submit a funding request to the Com-ANF. In the meantime, the Secretariat would invite research institutes for expression of interest in accordance with the proposal.

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6.6 Task Force on River Sand Substitutes Research – Proposed Membership

Members took note of the Paper CIC/ENT/P/033/09. As there were no Members of the Committee participating in the Task Force, which would create communication barrier between the Task Force and the Committee, Mr. Peter LEE volunteered to join the Task Force. The DEVB also said that it would consider sending a representative to the Task Force if necessary and appropriate. In addition, the Secretariat was asked to invite the Hong Kong Construction Association to send a representative to the Task Force.

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6.7 Research on Establishing a Hong Kong Based Carbon Labelling Standard for Construction Materials

Members took note of the Paper CIC/ENT/P/034/09

Before the discussion, Mr Peter LEE declared his interest of being a colleague of the project coordinator of the proposed research. As the discussion was only on technical sharing without decision-making, Members invited Mr LEE to stay at the meeting.

Members considered that the research topic was important in

Action

particular the formulation of strategies and measures to implement a carbon labelling standard for construction materials. However, Members wondered if there were any similarities between the outputs of the proposed research and the work already done by the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department in the area of carbon emission. The Secretariat was asked to invite the project coordinator of the proposed research to attend the next meeting of the Committee to elaborate the proposal and answer any questions raised by Members.

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6.8 Tentative Work Plan for Year 2010

Members took note of the Paper CIC/ENT/P/035/09

Members were generally agreed to the work plan as set out in the paper except for the following items.

For Paragraph 4.4, regarding the RFID, Members further discussed the subject and considered that the focus of the task should be on the exploration of possible applications of RFID in the construction industry rather than the detailed investigation on specific use at this stage.

For Paragraph 2.3, Members acknowledged that the suspension of the study on adhesion technologies for external wall tiles by the Buildings Department was to avoid duplication of efforts as the CIC had already committed to carry on the study.

For Paragraph 4.3, some Members raised concerns on the communication channel and reporting mechanism of the Hong Kong Green Building Council (HKGBC) to the Committee and the CIC to ensure that the CIC could be full aware of the progress of implementation of critical tasks of the HKGBC such as the development of BEAM Plus with good practice of the Comprehensive Environmental Performance Assessment Scheme (CEPAS) incorporated. The Secretariat was asked to make proposal on the reporting line among HKGBC, the Committee and the CIC for discussion at the next Committee meeting.

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The Secretariat would circulate to Members a revised work plan with the above comments incorporated.

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6.9 Sustainable Supply Chain Management in Construction

The Chairman delivered a presentation to Members elaborating the areas of concerns in sustainable construction in particular the carbon emission and highlighted briefly possible actions which could be taken in the construction supply chain. Members agreed to the principle and suggested a road map could be set up for future development towards sustainability. The Secretariat was directed to come up with some research ideas that the Committee could consider in moving along with the sustainable construction.

6.10 Tentative Meeting Schedule for 2010

Members took note of the meeting dates of the Committee in 2010 as set out in Paper CIC/ENT/P/036/09

6.11 Any Other Business

6.11.1 A letter from the Hong Kong Accreditation Service (HKAS) relating to the setting up of a task force on accreditation of construction products certification body was tabled. The Secretariat approached the HKAS and understood that the HKAS would like to invite the CIC to send a representative to participate in the task force. Members decided that the Secretariat would join the task force and report to the Committee the matters arising from the task force.

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6.11.2 A leaflet on calling for paper for the First International Conference on Sustainable Urbanization, for which the CIC was a non-financial supporter, was tabled for Members' information.

6.11.3 A letter from the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) on the First Stage Public Engagement Exercise for the Review and Development of Marine Water Quality Objectives was tabled at the meeting. Members were reminded that it had been discussed at the CIC meeting that the CIC would generally not form a view on similar consultations but would leave it to individual Members to

Action

respond directly in their own capacities. Mr Anthony FOK encouraged Members to provide their opinions to the EPD as the proposed water quality objectives would have a wider coverage of the territorial marine water.

- 6.11.4 A letter from the EPD announcing the effective date of the Air Pollution Control (Volatile Organic Compounds) (Amendment) Regulation 2009 was tabled for Members' information.

6.12 Tentative Date of Next Meeting for 2010

7 January 2010 (Thursday) at 2:30 pm at Hong Kong Construction Association, 16/F, 180 – 182 Hennessy Road, Wanchai, Hong Kong

All to note

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:00pm.