

Construction Industry Council

Committee on Productivity

Meeting No. 001/20 of the Committee on Productivity was held on 17 March 2020 (Tuesday) at 2:30 pm in Board Room, 38/F, COS Centre, 56 Tsun Yip Street, Kwun Tong, Kowloon.

Present:	Ringo YU	(RiYu)	Chairperson
	Thomas CHAN	(TYCn)	for Permanent Secretary for Development (Works)
	Kwok-fai CHUNG	(CKFi)	
	Simon KWOK	(TKK)	
	Eddie LAM	(ELM)	
	Daniel LEUNG	(DL)	for Permanent Secretary for Transport and Housing (Housing)
	Kenneth MO	(KM)	
	Shujie PAN	(PSJ)	
	Rocky POON	(LKP)	
	Derek SO	(KLS)	
Franki YEUNG	(FY)		
In Attendance:	Albert CHENG	(CTN)	Executive Director, CIC
	Richard PANG	(RPg)	Director – Industry Development
	Thomas TONG	(TsT)	General Manager – Innovation & Technology Development
	James WONG	(JsW)	Senior Manager – Construction Productivity
	Terry LAM	(TyLm)	Manager – Construction Productivity
	Bonnie TZE	(BeT)	Manager – Construction Productivity
	Eason YUNG	(EnY)	Senior Officer – Construction Productivity
	Christy KWONG	(CyK)	Officer – Construction Productivity
Apologies:	Ivan FU	(FI)	
	Ken WONG	(KnW)	

MINUTES

Action

1.1 **Confirmation of the Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

Members confirmed the minutes of the Com-PRO Meeting No. 004/19 without any amendment.

All to Note

1.2 **Matters Arising from the Previous Meeting**

Item 4.4: The meeting with the Development Bureau and the Standing Committee on Concrete Technology to discuss the product certification scheme for steel reinforcement proposed by CARES was postponed due to the outbreak of COVID-19. The Secretariat would keep Members informed on the development on this proposal.

Item 4.5: The Secretariat circulated the Final Report of the Extended Consultancy Service for Achieving Productivity Leap through Construction Process Re-engineering submitted by the Hong Kong Productivity Council on 16 March 2020 for Members' approval.

Item 4.6: The research proposal on development of robot for lift railing installation had been submitted to the Committee on Construction Safety for their review and approval.

1.3 **Consultancy Services for “Establishing a Certification Scheme for Construction Robots” (Robots Consultancy); and Consultancy Services on “Driving Design for Manufacture and Assembly (DfMA) Adoption to Enhance Productivity for E&M Works in Hong Kong Building Projects” (E&M Consultancy)**

The Secretariat presented the aim, expected deliverables, project timeline and budget on the captioned two consultancies:

- (i) The Robot Consultancy aims to develop a certification scheme (the Scheme) for construction robots applicable to all construction trades, with specific requirements for three key trades, viz. welding, painting and plastering. The Scheme would provide guidance on the requirements for manufacture and procurement of such construction robots. The Robot Consultancy would be a 9-month project at a budget of HK\$1.5 million, and be steered and overseen by an Expert Group established under the Com-PRO.
- (ii) The E&M Consultancy aims to formulate strategies with supporting measures to enhance productivity for E&M Works in local building projects. The E&M Consultancy would be a 12-month project at a budget of HK\$1.5 million. The consultant will be required to work closely with the Task Force on E&M Process Re-engineering under the HKFEMC. A Guidebook on productivity enhancement in E&M works will be prepared.

Members approved the draft assignment briefs and budgets for the two proposed consultancies.

1.4 Progress Update on the Research Study on Development of an Appraisal Framework for Assessing the DfMA Content for Buildings in Hong Kong

The Secretariat presented the draft assessment framework, namely the “DfMA Scoring Scheme (DSS)”, for assessing the DfMA content of residential buildings in Hong Kong. DSS would be based on three groups of DfMA elements, viz. horizontal components, vertical components and other DfMA items. Members took note of the progress of the research. Noting that extensive industry consultation on the DSS will be required to be conducted, Members agreed to extend the deadline for completion of the research study by 4 months, to end of June 2020.

The Principal Investigator (PI) of the research study, Ir Prof. Joseph MAK, had stepped down from the Materials Division of HKIE and can no longer receive the project payment via the HKIE. Members approved to change the payee for project payment from the HKIE Materials Division to the PI’s bank account upon completion of the study. The project payment remains unchanged at HK\$600,000.

1.5 Application for the CIC R&D Fund - Determination of Corrosion Rates in Both External and Internal Structural Steelwork of InnoCell Buildings at HKSTP

Ir Prof. Kwok-fai CHUNG from the Hong Kong Polytechnic University presented the aim and objectives of the captioned R&D Fund application. While a number of Members supported that data on corrosion rates for external and internal environments of buildings should be collected for review and formulation of corrosion protection requirements for local structural steelwork design, some Members expressed concerns on the possibility of acceptance by the Buildings Department. After deliberation, the Chairperson noted that there might not be a strong link between this research project and construction productivity, and suggested that the application should be considered by others outside Com-PRO.

1.6 Action Plan on Facilitating and Promoting the Adoption of (Non-timber) System Formwork

The Secretariat proposed two initiatives, viz. uplifting knowledge and skills, and development of policies and market drivers, and an action plan for facilitating and promoting the use of system formwork in Hong Kong. Members endorsed the proposed action plan.

Action

1.7 Proposed Implementation Plan on Mini Expo cum B2B Event

The Secretariat proposed to organise a mini-scale expo cum B2B event during the Construction Month in November 2020. The event aims primarily to provide a business platform to link up solution providers and users. Themes would focus on construction digitalisation, DfMA for MEP elements and sustainability. Members endorsed the proposal in principle. The Secretariat will proceed to work out the arrangement for this event.

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1.8 Proposed Implementation Plan on “Industrialisation” and “Embracing Construction Innovations and New Technologies”

The Secretariat made PowerPoint presentations on the outline implementation plans with proposed actions for the captioned two CIC core initiatives for Member’s review and deliberation. Members endorsed the outline implementation plans and action plans for further development and follow-up engagement.

1.9 Any Other Business

Nano and Advanced Materials Institute (NAMI) requested the CIC to issue a support letter for them to apply for funding to conduct project trials under the Public Sector Trial Scheme of the Innovation and Technology Fund. There is no financial implication for the CIC. On the basis that the proposed trials are an extension of the research project on advanced backfilling material which was supported by the CIC’s R&D Fund, Members agreed to entertain NAMI’s request. The Secretariat would follow up with NAMI.

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1.10 Next Meeting 002/20

The next meeting would be held in June 2020. The Committee Secretariat would inform Members once the meeting details are confirmed.

All to Note

The meeting was adjourned at 5 pm.