

Construction Industry Council

Construction Workers Registration Board

Meeting No. 004/23 of the Construction Workers Registration Board (CWRB) was held on 29 November 2023 (Wednesday) at 2:30pm at Board Room, 29/F, Tower 2, Enterprise Square Five, 38 Wang Chiu Road, Kowloon Bay and via Video Conference.

Summary Notes of the CWRB Meeting No. 004/23:

Agenda Item	Paper	Major Resolutions/Progress Highlights
4.1	CIC/CRB/M/003/23	Confirmation of the Minutes of the Previous Meeting Members confirmed the minutes of Meeting No. 003/23.
4.2		Matters Arising from the Previous Meeting The two matters arising from the previous meeting will be reported within the agenda item of 4.7 Report of Sub-committee on Data Analysis Meeting No. 003/23.
4.3	CIC/CRB/P/021/23 (for approval)	Selective Tendering of the New Term Contract to Supply Construction Workers Registration Cards to the CIC (a) The current supplier for the term contract of Construction Workers Registration Cards of the CIC is Toppan Edge (Hong Kong) Limited. The contract period is from 5 August 2021 to 4 August 2024, with a duration of 36 months. The contract involves the supply of 500,000 registration cards at a contract sum of HK\$ 4,675,000. Considering the necessity to undergo technical tests for registration cards, tendering process for the new contract commenced now. (b) The CIC will invite 18 companies for selective tendering. According to the tendering schedule, the new term contract is targeted to be awarded in August 2024. The duration of the new

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		<p>contract for the supply of registered cards remained for 3 years, from 5 August 2024 to 4 August 2027, supplying 500,000 cards. The approved budget for this tender is HK\$ 5,000,000.</p> <p>(c) According to the CIC’s Procurement Manual, the tender evaluation process will follow the “Two-Envelope” approach and the CWRB Member, Mr. CHAN Shut-ho, Franki will be one of the members of the Tender Assessment Panel.</p>
4.4	CIC/CRB/P/022/23 (for approval)	<p>Nomination for the Construction Workers Review Board</p> <p>(a) In accordance with the requirements of the Construction Workers Registration Ordinance (“the CWRO”), the designated nominating organisations as specified in the CWRO are invited to nominate representatives for the Construction Workers Review Board for approval by the CWRB.</p> <p>(b) The CWRB approved the appointment of Ir. Dixon KWOK Kai Yuen, Ar. SO Ching, Cr. WONG Chi Kin Jesse, the person holding the office of Principal Assistant Secretary (Works) 1 of the Development Bureau, Mr. LO Cheuk Pui, Ms IP Hiu Chi, Mr. PUI Yan Leong, Ms. IP Tsz Tung Tiffany and Mr. TONG Ho Wai Howard with terms of office from 1 February 2024 to 31 January 2027.</p> <p>(c) The Secretariat will follow up with the Development Bureau to publish the appointment in the Gazette according to the CWRO.</p>
4.5	CIC/CRB/P/023/23 (for information)	<p>Reference Report on Promoting the Enhancement of Construction Site Facilities for Workers</p> <p>(a) According to the “Reference Materials on Construction Site Facilities for Workers” (“Reference Materials”) as approved by the CWRB, the Secretariat collected the site facility examples from large, medium and small construction sites. In general, construction sites are</p>

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		<p>equipped with an array of essential site facilities including electronic card reading devices, storage facilities, drinking water provisions, facilities for morning briefings, exercise routines and training sessions, personal hygiene facilities, heat mitigation facilities and designated rest areas. Certain sites offer specialized facilities such as shoe cleaning stations, smart safety simulation training, and smart helmet rack with charging cables.</p> <p>(b) Nevertheless, there are areas that require improvement as observed from certain construction sites. For example, water dispensers were placed among the debris with poor hygiene condition, lack of appropriate safety signage, inadequate flushing facilities, insufficient waste segregation and recycling facilities, lack of proper storage facilities inside changing rooms, and damaged seating with excessive clutter in the rest areas.</p> <p>(c) To foster the industry to continuously improve construction sites facilities for workers, the CWRB will invite contractors to share noteworthy examples of effective practices in construction sites facilities for workers.</p>
4.6	CIC/CRB/P/024/23 (for information)	<p>Analysis of the Report on Medical Examination Scheme for Registered Construction Workers</p> <p>Members noted the analysis of the report and health recommendations on Medical Examination Scheme for Registered Construction Workers (MES). The findings reveal that 37% of the workers have higher than normal blood pressure, 30% have exceeded body mass index, and 36% have higher than normal total cholesterol levels. However, the majority of workers fall within the standard range for other examination parameters, such as pulse, uric acid, urea, S.G.P.T./ALT and S.G.O.T./AST. For those with results higher than normal, the service provider suggests focusing on maintaining a balanced diet, consuming 2.5 to 3 litres of water daily, reducing salt, sugar, and alcohol intake as well as refraining from smoking.</p>

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4.7	CIC/CRB/P/025/23 (for information)	<p>Report of Sub-committee on Data Analysis Meeting No. 003/23</p> <p>(a) As of October 2023, according to data expansion analysis, there were a total of 403,535 registered workers engaged in the construction industry.</p> <p>(b) According to the latest release from the Census and Statistics Department (16 November 2023), the unemployment rate in the construction industry for the period of August to October 2023 was 3.8%, which is similar to the range of unemployment rates during the era of top 10 infrastructure construction projects (3.3% to 5.4%). The latest release by the Census and Statistics Department (16 November 2023) showed that the underemployment rate in the construction industry was 3.2%, which was the lowest on record.</p> <p>(c) Currently, there were approximately 83,000 Registered Skilled and Semi-skilled workers whose Construction Workers Registration Cards had expired in the Construction Workers Registration System. Members suggested to promote the recruitment day to those aged between 30 and 55 years old of selected trade to test the water whether those workers were still interested in the construction industry.</p>
4.8	CIC/CRB/P/026/23 (for information)	<p>Report of Sub-Committee on Workers Development and Welfare Meeting No. 003/23</p> <p>(a) The Secretariat has recently sent letters to Hong Kong Marble and Granite Merchants Association, Hong Kong Waterproofing Contractors Association Limited, and Hong Kong Concrete Repair and Waterproofing Association to promote the Construction Workers Professional Development Scheme (Development Scheme), aiming at encouraging workers engaged in marble works and waterproofing works to participate in the Development Scheme.</p> <p>(b) In the inaugural year of current MES service contract, priority had been given to Registered Skilled and Semi-skilled workers aged 50 and above. Members approved the expansion of the MES to cover all Registered Skilled and Semi-skilled workers starting from December 2023,</p>

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		<p>to encourage workers to obtain qualifications and enhance the awareness of the importance of regular health check-ups. The Secretariat had promoted the enhanced scheme to trade unions and workers.</p> <p>(c) The Award Ceremony of the 13th Scholarship for Family Members of Registered Construction Workers (Scholarship) was successfully held on 4 November 2023. The Scholarship received strong support from 15 developers, registered specialist trade contractors, subcontractors, contractors and public service organisations. The total sponsorship amount reached HK\$400,000, making the highest amount in the history of the Scholarship. This year, a total of 44 awards were presented to family members of construction workers who achieved outstanding results in the 2023 Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education Examination, setting a new record for the Scholarship.</p>
4.9	CIC/CRB/P/027/23 (for information)	<p>Report on Inspection and Enforcement</p> <p>(a) From January to October 2023, a total of 1,410 construction site inspections and a total of 1,748 workers’ daily attendance records (DAR) were checked.</p> <p>(b) From January to October 2023, a total of 190 summonses were issued. 248 summonses were resulted in convictions in court.</p> <p>(c) From January to October 2023, 18 seminars on “Designated Workers for Designated Skills” and “Construction Workers Registration System” (CWRS) were held to explain the requirements of the CWRO, introduce the CWRS and provide operational demonstrations.</p>
4.10	CIC/CRB/P/028/23 (for information)	<p>CWRB Meeting Schedule for Year 2024 and 2024 Performance Index</p> <p>Members noted the 2024 meeting schedule and final version of KPIs.</p>

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4.11	Other Items - Brainstorm Discussion on Building a Safety Culture and Enhancing Safety Awareness Among the Workers	<p>Members discussed further initiatives to build a safety culture and enhance safety awareness among the workers. The salient discussion points are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Support the implementation of scoring system for front-line practitioners and require front-line practitioners who fail to meet the requirements to attend safety courses organised by the CIC. (b) Explore to require workers to undertake safety-related development courses when renewing worker registrations. (c) Encourage management of main contractors to promote strict enforcement and training of dynamic risk assessment for workers as well as regular site visits and participation in on-site safety briefings. (d) Include relevant content on personal protective equipment in the “Reference Materials” for industry reference. (e) Survey the implementation of the Smart Site Safety System on construction sites when conducting site inspection by the CIC’s Inspection and Enforcement Team. (f) Organise brainstorming meetings with trade union representatives and the CIC’s Construction Safety department to understand the deep-rooted challenges and ideas of the workers, with the aim to deduce practical safety enhancement solutions.