

Construction Industry Council

Construction Workers Registration Board

Meeting No. 003/17 of the Construction Workers Registration Board was held on Wednesday, 12 July 2017 at 3pm at Conference Room, HKFEMC, Room 1801, 18/F Tung Wai Commercial Building, 109 – 111 Gloucester Road, Wan Chai, Hong Kong

Summary notes of the Construction Workers Registration Board Meeting No. 003/17.

Agenda Item	Paper	Major Resolutions/ Progress Highlights
3.1	CIC/CRB/M/002/17	<u>Confirmation of the Minutes of the Last Meeting</u> The minutes of the 2 nd meeting for 2017 were confirmed.
3.3.1	CIC/CRB/P/020/17 (For Resolution)	<u>Budget and 5-year Work Plan of CWRB</u> Members unanimously approved 2017 revised budget, 2018 original budget as well as 2018 – 2022 5-year work plan.
3.3.2	CIC/CRB/P/021/17 (For Resolution)	<u>Nomination of Organizations for Construction Workers Qualifications Board</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Under the Construction Workers Registration Ordinance (Cap. 583) (CWRO), members of the Construction Workers Qualifications Board (QB) are appointed by the Construction Workers Registration Board.• Pursuant to section 12(2) of the CWRO, Members approved to invite the Real Estate Developers Association of Hong Kong representing major employers in the construction industry, the Hong Kong Federation of Electrical and Mechanical Contractors representing contractors in the construction industry, Hong Kong University of Science and Technology representing training institutes in the construction industry and Construction Industry Employees General Union representing workers in the construction industry to nominate representatives for a term of 2 years from 1 January 2018 to 31 December 2019 to replace the four QB members whose term of office would expire on 31 December 2017.
3.3.3	CIC/CRB/P/022/17 (For Resolution)	<u>Arrangement of Recording Other Construction Related Certificates in the New Construction Workers Registration Card</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• New construction workers registration card will be issued when the construction workers registration system is fully implemented. The new card enables storage of card tapping records as well as other construction-related qualifications obtained by registered construction workers in order to reduce the number of cards workers need to bring for work.

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The CWRB approved a list of 20 relevant construction-related certificates of qualifications, such as the Certificate of Registration of Lift Worker, Registered Gas Installer Card, etc., to be recorded in the new registration card. The secretariat is liaising with relevant government departments to recognise the workers registration cards as their relevant legislative certificates/cards if the certificates of qualifications have already been stored in the new workers registration cards. Upon their endorsement, pursuant to section 46(A)(2) of the CWRO, the Council shall obtain approval from the Secretary of Development to add 20 certificates of qualifications to the new registration card. • The information printed on the new workers registration card would be finalized by the Task Force on CWRS and submitted to the CWRB for approval.
3.4.1	CIC/CRB/P/023/17 (For Discussion)	<p><u>Enhancement of Welfare for Registered Construction Workers</u></p> <p>With reference to the deliberation carried out by the Council and the CWRB as well as further research performed by the Secretariat to identify various options to enhance the welfare for registered construction workers, members concluded and agreed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to enhance the provision of medical examination, distribution of useful giveaways and enhancement of the facilities & services of the service centres, including the provision of free Wi-Fi and mobile phone/tablet charging facilities as well as to continue providing scholarships for family members of registered construction workers. • to stop allocating further resources to the merchant discount scheme as the scheme has been unattractive for both merchants and registered construction workers since its launch in early 2015. • the offer of student grants would create enormous and complicated administrative work to ensure only qualified persons are the target recipients and considering the fact that the government has already provided different types of grants or subsidy schemes to local students, this proposal would not be pursued any further.

3.4.2	CIC/CRB/P/024/17 (For Discussion)	<p><u>Continuing Training Programme for Registered Skilled Workers</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upon the implementation of the “Designated workers for designated skills” provision on 1 April 2017, principal contractors/employers of workers can arrange qualified instructor to provide instruction and supervision to workers under instruction based on the actual situation of the construction sites and the construction works. Nevertheless, certain industry stakeholders had expressed concern about the skill level of the registered skilled workers. • Member opined that the offer of continuous learning programme on a voluntary basis would be difficult to attract registered skilled workers to participate. It may turn out that extra resources have to be put into the programme in order to avoid poor attendance rate. On the other hand, the CIC was obliged to provide lifelong training support to workers to continue upgrading their skills. • CWRB members concluded that analysis on the number of registered skilled workers of each trade should be performed. CWRB would further deliberate the need to provide continuous training courses for registered skilled workers based on the analysis.
3.5.1	CIC/CRB/P/025/17 (Progress Report)	<p><u>Sub-committee on Senior Workers Assessment</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As of 30 June 2017, WRO had completed assessing 111,072 applications for the first round of senior workers registration arrangement, of which 105,501 applications (95%) were approved and 5,571 (5%) were rejected/cancelled. • The 18-month senior workers registration arrangement for the three new trade divisions has been ongoing since 1 April 2017. As of 30 June 2017, a total of 251 and 124 applications were received for False Ceiling Installer and Partition (Metal Frame) Installer. • From the end of February to 31 May 2017, a total of 26 registered skilled workers (provisional) passed the specified training courses.
3.5.2	CIC/CRB/P/026/17 (Progress Report)	<p><u>Sub-committee on Registration Matters</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Considering the existing six principles of adding new trade divisions have been established for many years, the Sub-committee conducted a review of the principles at its meeting on 1 March 2017. Members were of the view that the six principles of adding new trade divisions are clear and already covered the key considerations. There is no need to make any changes. • Since the implementation of the Designated Workers for Designated Skills on 1 April 2017, 355 construction sites subject to the DWDS requirements (out of a total of 519 sites inspected from April to July) were inspected. A total of 23 advices were issued to contractors, employers of workers and workers in relation to implementation of reasonable measures on sites and registered general workers carrying out skill works. The Sub-committee would monitor the situation and analyse the data obtained from site inspection to continue enhancing the inspection procedures.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In reply to the letter from the Welding Industry Employees Association requesting for setting up a licensing system for argon arc welding, members consulted industry expert on the application of argon arc welding and the manpower situation of the field. After deliberation, members opined that the existing trade division, namely “Structural Steel Welder” already provides a trade division for the argon arc welders to register as skilled workers. Setting up another trade division would on the contrary limit the practitioners to work across another type of welding jobs.
3.5.3	CIC/CRB/P/027/17 (Progress Report)	<p><u>Task Force on Construction Workers Registration System (CWRS)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As of 30 June 2017, there were 1,451 active construction sites, of which 66.4% or 963 active sites were already using the new system. • The Secretariat was stepping up its efforts to liaise with contractors and system integrators for full implementation of the CWRS by 30 September 2017.
3.5.4	CIC/CRB/P/028/17 (Progress Report)	<p><u>Task Force on Data Analysis</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The 11th telephone survey was conducted from February to May 2017 with 8,798 workers were interviewed. • The average number of working days per week with daily attendance records was 4.78; Workers without daily attendance records but were still engaging in the industry was 4.24 working days per week. Both numbers were higher than the results of the previous survey. • Projected from the latest telephone survey, there were 329,065 workers currently engaged in the construction industry (excluding truck drivers and workers carrying out non-construction works) as of 30 April 2017. The number of workers engaging in the construction industry in any given day (including with and without daily attendance records) was 249,631. • After the full implementation of the CWRS, the data collected by the CWRS and the telephone survey would be provided to the consultancy firm to be appointed in order to review and revamp the data analysis model.
3.5.5	CIC/CRB/P/029/17 (Progress Report)	<p><u>Education and Publicity</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Send eDM (electronic direct mail) by email to associations, trade unions and contractors on a monthly basis to promote DWDS seminars, scholarship for family members of registered construction workers, new CWRS etc.; • Distribute leaflets and posters to contractors and trade unions for erecting at the prominent positions in construction sites and union premises; • Place advertisements on the publications issued by trade unions; • Sent whatsapp message to stakeholders for onward distribution to members;

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organized 49 DWDS seminars with attendance of 1,742 participants from government departments, contractors, professional bodies from January to June 2017; • Organized 22 lunch briefing sessions participated by 1,438 workers on construction sites from January to June 2017; and • Organised monthly CWRS briefing to support the frontline users of contractors for a smooth implementation.
3.5.6	CIC/CRB/P/030/17 (Progress Report)	<p><u>Workers Registration Office</u></p> <p>Total number of workers with valid registration as of 30 June 2017 was 446,932, of which 199,862 were registered skilled workers, 24,372 were registered semi-skilled workers, 221,646 were registered general workers, 1,042 registered skilled workers (provisional) and 10 registered semi-skilled workers (provisional).</p>
3.5.7	CIC/CRB/P/031/17 (Progress Report)	<p><u>Inspection and Enforcement</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • From 1 January to 31 May 2017, a total number of 589 construction sites and 5,302 registration cards were inspected.

Remarks: The mentioned papers discussed by the Construction Workers Registration Board can be made available to Council Members from the Workers Registration Secretariat upon request.