

Construction Industry Council

Steering Group on Implementation of CWRO Amendments

Meeting No. 001/16 of the Steering Group on Implementation of CWRO Amendments was held on Friday, 19 February 2016 at 9:30am at Conference Room, Kowloon Bay Training Centre, 44 Tai Yip Street, Kowloon Bay.

Summary notes of the Steering Group on Implementation of CWRO Amendments (SGICA) Meeting No. 001/16:

Agenda Item	Paper	Major Resolutions / Progress Highlights
1.1	CIC/ICA/R/005/15	Confirmation of Progress Report of the Last Meeting The progress report of the 5 th meeting held on 1 December 2015 was confirmed.
1.2		Matter Arising from the Last Meeting In response to members' suggestion about strengthening the outreach service on private construction sites, 15 out of the 39 sites visited between September 2015 and January 2016 were from private sector whereas for those 34 sites scheduled for outreach from February to May 2016, 23 of them would be private sector sites.

Agenda Item	Paper	Major Resolutions / Progress Highlights
1.3	CIC/ICA/P/001/16 (for information)	<p data-bbox="712 252 1832 288">Report on the Works of CITB for the Amendments to the CWRO</p> <ul data-bbox="712 295 2060 1053" style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="712 295 2060 454">• The secretariat reported the number of application for trade tests in the last four months. 1,711 enrolments for trade tests were received in January 2016 and there were 19,335 enrolments accumulated, which exceeded the target by 10%. Passing rate of trade tests was about 70-80%.<li data-bbox="712 454 2060 646">• With the aim of sufficient manpower supply of each trade division after the implementation of the “designated workers for designated skills” provision, the promotion work targeting trade divisions with fewer registered skilled workers had been strengthened, including liaison with related trade associations or unions.<li data-bbox="712 646 2060 805">• The secretariat was producing videos about how to prepare for trade tests and the frequent mistakes made by candidates. The secretariat anticipated that the first video would be completed in April. Members fully agreed this approach to let workers get prepared for tests and thus raise the test passing rates.<li data-bbox="712 805 2060 933">• The new metal scaffolding testing workstations in the Aberdeen Trade Testing and Training Centre would start service in March 2016. Test capacity would be increased by 50% by then.<li data-bbox="712 933 2060 1053">• The secretariat had produced promotion materials in Nepalese, Hindu and Urdu, and provided ethnic minority workers with exclusive training courses in collaboration with trade unions in order to enhance their skill levels.

Agenda Item	Paper	Major Resolutions / Progress Highlights
1.4	CIC/ICA/P/002/16 (for information)	<p>Report on the Works of CWRB for the Amendments to the CWRO</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As of the end of January 2016, about 20,990 applications under Senior Workers Registration Arrangement (SWRA) were received in which about 19,100 had been issued with new registration cards. There were 2,735 applicants took oath on site by Commissioners for Oaths delegated by the DevB. The arrangement of taking oath on-site was very well received by workers. • Identified in the trial run inspection, 280 out of 452 registered general workers carrying out skill works of designated trade divisions on the construction sites were unable to provide the information of their instructors. • Starting from the end of January 2016, letters were gradually sent out to workers who passed trade test to remind them on updating their registration status to become skilled/semi-skilled workers. As of mid-February 2016, around 17% of the 1st round of target workers (about 6,600) replied to updating their registration status. • As of mid-February 2016, about 80 representatives from 40 Registered Subcontractors would attend workshops to be held from January to April 2016. The series of workshops aimed to enhance promotion to subcontractors on “Designated workers for designated skills” and SWRA so that they could remind and facilitate their workers to make respective applications. • Internal and external testing of the CIC card reading device would be conducted followed by pilot tests to be carried out at construction sites. IT department was searching for other manufacturers able to develop the hardware for card reading device or solutions to meet the demand of the industry. At the same time, IT Department was addressing 27 issues being put forward by HKCA on Construction Workers Registration System.

Agenda Item	Paper	Major Resolutions / Progress Highlights
1.5	CIC/ICA/P/003/16 (for information)	Report on Studying and Executing the Proposed Measures of Recognising Overseas Trade Tests or Conducting CIC Trade Tests outside Hong Kong <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Research and Development Department was studying the feasibility of conducting trade tests for carpenter (formwork), welder and cement sand mortar worker in overseas centres as the first phase of the research, as well as the arrangement of sending workers to attend the training course for Plant and Equipment Operator (Tower Crane) of the Hangzhou Test Centre of Building and Construction Authority.• It is anticipated that the proposed trade test collaboration of the above three trade divisions would be completed in Q3 of 2016, while the proposal of the other 15 trade divisions would be completed before April 2017.• With the view of appointing a consulting firm to study differences between the overseas trade tests and CIC trade tests as early as possible, members suggested secretariat seek approval from the Committee of Administration and Finance by email circulation, after the committee members were appointed in the CIC Council meeting on 26 February 2016.

Remarks: The mentioned papers discussed at the Steering Group of Implementation of CWRO Amendments can be made available to Council Members from the CIC Secretariat upon request.