

**Construction Industry Council**

**Construction Workers Registration Board**

Meeting No. 002/14 of the Construction Workers Registration Board was held on Thursday, 20 March 2014 at 3:30 pm at Conference Room, CIC Headquarters, 15/F, Allied Kajima Building, 138 Gloucester Road, Wan Chai, Hong Kong.

---

Summary notes of the Construction Workers Registration Board Meeting No. 002/14:

<b>Agenda Item</b>	<b>Paper</b>	<b>Major Resolutions / Progress Highlights</b>
2.1	CIC/CRB/M/001/14	<b><u>Confirmation of the Minutes of the Last Meeting</u></b> Members confirmed the revised minutes of the 1 <sup>st</sup> meeting of CWRB for 2014.
2.3.1	CIC/CRB/P/009/14 (Progress Report)	<b><u>Workers Registration Offices</u></b> Chairman requested WRO to provide the numbers of new, renewal and expired registrations over the past three years at the next meeting to assess the trend of manpower supply.
2.3.2	CIC/CRB/P/010/14 (Progress Report)	<b><u>Inspection and Enforcement</u></b> The Secretariat adopted a new method to check the submission of the daily attendance records (DARs) which helped crack down on non-compliant construction sites and strengthen the law enforcement. The new arrangement would be placed under observation for six months to see if more stringent measures would be required.
2.3.3	CIC/CRB/P/011/14 (for Resolution)	<b><u>Sub-Committee on Specified Training Courses and Registration for Senior Workers</u></b> Following items were approved: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The Sub-Committee was renamed “Sub-committee on Senior Workers Assessment”.</li><li>• Ir Dr LAU Chi-keung and Ir Eric PANG would replace Ir Joseph LEE and Ir CHUI Wai-sing respectively as members of the Sub-Committee; Ir George LAW would replace Ir NGAI Hon-wah as co-opted member of the Sub-Committee.</li><li>• To examine and verify the years of working experience for senior workers with reference to the existing verification mechanism for “Registered Skilled Workers (Provisional)” through 1) proof from direct employers; 2) proof from labour unions; 3) legal statement (declaration); and 4) registered workers of skilled and semi-skilled</li></ul>

Agenda Item	Paper	Major Resolutions / Progress Highlights
		<p>(Provisional) or a combination of the above.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Measures to attract workers to register as senior workers as early as possible:               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Qualified Group 2 senior workers would have unlimited opportunity to participate in the assessment without charge before the amendments to “Construction Workers Registration Ordinance” (CWRO) commenced who could, if passing the assessment, register as skilled workers after the commencement of amendments to the ordinance;</li> <li>ii. Within the first year after the commencement of the amendments to the CWRO, the application fee of the first successful assessment paid by Group 2 senior workers could be reimbursed;</li> <li>iii. To authorise Hong Kong Construction Industry Employees General Union, Construction Site Workers General Union and The Federation of Hong Kong Electrical &amp; Mechanical Industries Trade Unions to provide assistance in carrying out the assessment.</li> </ol> </li> </ul>
2.3.4	CIC/CRB/P/012/14 (for Resolution)	<p><b><u>Sub-Committee on Registration Matters</u></b></p> <p><u>Addition of trades</u> Workers Registration Secretariat was conducting industry consultation for the addition of Cable Jointer (Power) (Medium Voltage), False Ceiling Worker and Partition (Metal Frame) Worker.</p> <p><u>Registration qualification of “Diver”</u> Based on the comments collected through a questionnaire survey, CWRB decided that the registration qualification for “Diver” remains unchanged.</p> <p><u>Streamline the workflow of adding new designated trades</u> The streamlining of the workflow of adding new designated trades was approved. The workflow and the six principles of adding new designated trades had been uploaded to the webpage of Construction Workers Registration for reference by the public.</p> <p><u>Specified Form for “Exempted Emergency Construction Work” and the Code of Practice on “Instruction and Supervision”</u> The drafts of the specified form and the code of practice were being deliberated at the</p>

Agenda Item	Paper	Major Resolutions / Progress Highlights
		<p>Sub-Committee.</p> <p><u>Trades with exemption under other ordinances</u></p> <p>Workers who had obtained exemptions under relevant ordinances would be granted the same exemptions from skills registration under CWRO but registration as general workers would still be required.</p> <p><u>Provision of postal service and online application for workers registration or renewal</u></p> <p>The provision of postal service and online application for workers registration or renewal was approved in principle.</p>
2.3.5	CIC/CRB/P/013/14 (Progress Report)	<p><b><u>Task Force on Data Analysis</u></b></p> <p>The second round of telephone survey conducted from December 2013 to January 2014 was completed with 5,214 interviewees. To cover 24 specified trades, telephone interviews for additional 3,000 workers would be conducted in April 2014.</p> <p>To enhance the credibility of the survey, it was proposed that a professional surveying organisation should be engaged to conduct telephone survey on a quarterly basis.</p>
2.3.6	CIC/CRB/P/014/14 (for Resolution)	<p><b><u>Task Force on Construction Workers Registration System</u></b></p> <p>The nomination of Mr Danny Lau as co-opted member of the task force was approved.</p> <p>Five briefing sessions held in February and March 2014 attracted 650 participants from various sectors and stakeholder groups.</p> <p>Regarding the concern on the new registration card for not storing biometric data, some members raised concern as the use of biometric data to verify workers' identity was required under the public works contracts. DEVB said that they would give up the requirement of using smart card and biometric data in public works contracts after the launch of the new registration card.</p> <p>To accommodate industry's comments and needs, the launch of CWRS, which was originally scheduled in October this year, would be delayed. Hence, CWRB approved extending the contract with Quesco, the service provider of CRMS subject to i) Quesco should allow the new system to issue registration cards with existing format during the transitional period; and ii) a 3-month advance notice of termination of the new contract.</p>

Agenda Item	Paper	Major Resolutions / Progress Highlights
2.3.7	CIC/CRB/P/007/14 (for Resolution)	<b><u>Establishment of “Task Force on Reviewing the Outflow of Construction Workers”</u></b> The proposed name, membership and terms of reference were approved. The Task Force would investigate common causes and reasons leading to workers leaving the construction industry and focus on approaching workers with high potential to rejoin the industry.
2.4		<b><u>Any Other Business</u></b> At the request of Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (EMSD), Council’s approval was sought to nominate the Chief Electrical & Mechanical Engineer/General Legislation of EMSD (currently being Ir Eric PANG Yiu Hung) to replace Ir CHUI Wai Sing as member of CWRB.