

Construction Industry Council

Meeting No. 002/11 of the Construction Industry Council for 2011 was held on Friday, 29 April 2011 at 2:30pm at Board Room, Construction Industry Council Headquarters, 15/F Allied Kajima Building, 138 Gloucester Road, Wan Chai, Hong Kong.

Present : Shing-see LEE (SSL) Chairman
Andrew CHAN (AC)
Hau-wai CHEUNG (HWC)
Luen-kiu CHOW (LKC)
Thomas HO (TH)
Wai-wah HO (WWH)
Jan-ming KO (JMK)
Peter LAM (OKL)
Wo-hei LAM (WHL)
Tak-ching MAK (TCM)
Koon-sun WAN (KSW)
Billy WONG (BW)
Mike WONG (MW)
Kam-hung YU (KHY)
Wai-wai YU (WWY)
Choi-kai AU (CKA) Director of Buildings
Ada FUNG (AF) for Permanent Secretary for
Transport and Housing (Housing)

In Attendance : Charmaine WONG (HWW) Development Bureau
Christopher TO (CT) Executive Director
Charles WONG (CWG) Director (Training)
Theresa CHAN (TCN) Senior Manager (Finance)
Alex LEUNG (AL) Senior Manager (Council
Services) 1
Guiyi LI (GYL) Senior Manager (Research)
Ivan WONG (IW) Senior Manager (Council
Services) 2
Shirley LEE (SyL) Manager (Council Services) 5

Apologies : Siu-hung CHAN (SHC)
Teresa CHENG (TC)
Tai-chong CHEW (TCC)
Stanley HUI (SH)
James KWAN (JK)
Joseph LEE (HWL)
Conrad WONG (CW)
Chi-sing WAI (CSW) Permanent Secretary for
Development (Works)

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2.1 Confirmation of Minutes of the Previous Meeting (Open-door Session)

Members took note of Paper CIC/CMT/M/001/11 and approved the minutes of the open-door session of the 1st meeting for 2011 held on Friday, 25 February 2011 at Room 1201, Murray Building, Central, Hong Kong.

2.2 Matters Arising from the Previous Meeting (Open-door Session)

Matters arising from the previous meeting would be covered at the later part of the meeting.

2.3 1st Meeting of Committee on Construction Site Safety for 2011

Members took note of Paper CIC/CMT/P/008/11.

The Committee on Construction Site Safety (Com-CSS) noted the urgency of issuing the Guidelines on Pay For Safety Scheme (PFSS) in private works contracts. Concurrently, the Committee would review the practicality of implementing the PFSS in RMAA works such as works under the Operation Building Bright programme and would discuss with the relevant public bodies on its incorporation.

2.4 2nd Meeting of Committee on Environment and Technology for 2011

Members took note of Paper CIC/CMT/P/009/11.

Having in depth deliberation on the research proposal on Commitment towards Sustainable Urbanisation of Construction Industry in Hong Kong, the proposal did not receive strong and enthusiastic supports from majority of members of the Committee on Environment and Technology (Com-ENT) and was not the priority focus compared with other initiatives being contemplated by the Committee. Hence, the Com-ENT did not endorse the funding support.

Considered the proposal was too brief and vague, Com-ENT rejected the research proposal on Review of the Current IT Applications in Hong Kong Construction Industry. However,

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Com-ENT supported the greater use of IT to enhance the quality and competitiveness of construction industry.

Com-ENT declined the tenderer due to the high tender fee proposed for the Research on River Sand Substitutes for Concrete Production and Cement Sand Mortar Production. Tenderers would be invited in the re-tendering exercise to submit two proposals in respect of (a) study on cement sand mortar production only; and (b) study on both concrete production and cement sand mortar production.

Com-ENT reported the successful organisation of the Technical Seminar on Use of Prefabrication and Modularisation on 15 April 2011. The seminar, attracting over 120 participants, reflected the interest in the use of prefabrication in construction industry. A task force would be formed to formulate long-term strategies to promote the greater use of prefabrication in public and private works projects.

Though it was difficult to reach a consensus on the draft review report on common and/or major causes of debonding or failure of wet-fixed external wall tiles given the local climate in Hong Kong, the Task Force was reminded to finalise the draft review report and proceed with the next stage of the research study, which aimed to investigate the problems associated with the adhesion of external wall tiles and rendering from the perspective of (a) specification at the design stage; (b) workmanship during construction; and (c) inspection and testing for maintenance.

2.5 1st Meeting of Committee on Procurement for 2011

Members took note of Paper CIC/CMT/P/010/11.

Committee on Procurement (Com-PCM) reported that Mr. Thomas K K Ho, representing Hong Kong Institute of Surveyors had been invited to join the Com-PCM as a Co-opted Member.

With full house attendance, Com-PCM reported the successful organisation of the Technical Seminar on Collaborative Contracting Approach on 12 January 2011. “Guidelines on Partnering” had also been promoted extensively at the seminar.

Com-PCM reported the new initiatives for 2011 and beyond. Two new Task Forces would be established on Competition Bill and NEC3 respectively. Nomination of Task Force members as well as

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the terms of reference would be discussed at the upcoming committee meeting in May 2011.

The ICAC, Hong Kong Housing Society and Urban Renewal Authority would be invited to share with Committee Members the challenges and issues of RMAA works under Operation Building Bright programme at the next scheduled Committee Meeting.

Regarding an anonymous letter complaining the award of a low bid received by the Secretariat in January 2011, Members agreed that CIC would not attend to or handle anonymous complaints of any nature.

A Member raised that Hong Kong Construction Association had requested CIC to review the current practice requiring the contractors to procure demand bonds in most of the construction contracts. The Chairman suggested that such issue could be discussed at Com-PCM.

Com-PCM

2.6 2nd Meeting of Committee on Subcontracting for 2011

Members took note of Paper CIC/CMT/P/011/11.

Committee on Subcontracting (Com-SBC) briefed Members on the latest progress of the industry-wide survey on the security of payment conducted by the Development Bureau. A pilot survey through interviews with 20 companies was completed and the full-scale field survey would be kicked off shortly. Committee Chairman solicited support of Members to participate actively in the survey in order to get useful information for the formulation of practical measures to address the problems of security of payment in the construction supply chain.

Com-SBC reported that the Mandatory Provident Fund Schemes Authority was invited to introduce the current payment schemes specifically designed for the site personnel who were employed continuously for a period of less than 60 days. The existing payment schemes were complicated which might give rise to disputes. As such, simplified calculation mechanisms had been proposed to MPFA for its consideration.

It was reported that an internal audit had been conducted relating to the appointment of members of VSRS Management Committee which affirmed the compliance with the Rules and Procedures of

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the VSRS. However, the Committee was considering to expand the membership of the VSRS Management Committee and to streamline the appointment mechanism. Com-SBC would further discuss the issue at the next meeting.

Com-SBC

2.7 1st Meeting of Construction Industry Training Board for 2011

Members took note of Paper CIC/CMT/P/012/11.

The Construction Industry Training Board (CITB) reported that, to bring in new ideas and to ensure the training courses would meet the technical requirements of the industry, a review on the terms of office, replacement mechanism and composition of all course advisory panels would be conducted in due course.

CITB shared with Members that the Government had proposed a piece of land in Tai Po Area 33 as a replacement site for the three training grounds in Shatin, Sheung Yuet Road and Wai Lok Street. The site in Sheung Yuet Road would be used for constructing the first zero-carbon building in Hong Kong.

2.8 1st Meeting of Committee on Manpower Training and Development

Members took note of Paper CIC/CMT/P/013/11.

The Committee on Manpower Training and Development (Com-MTD) reported that the consultant for the manpower research, CityU, was asked to review once again the revised report of additional study to the manpower research on off-site technicians, in particular the conclusion about the surplus of draftsmen which seemed not matching the market situation.

Subsequent to the approval of methodology and questionnaire, the survey of the consultancy study of definition and scope of duties of site supervision personnel was now in progress. Given the diversity in the titles or duties of site supervisors in different sectors, Members considered that the study was very worth proceeding.

2.9 Any Other Business

Nil.

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There being no further business, the open-door session of the meeting was adjourned at 4pm.

********End of the Open-door Session********