

Construction Industry Council

Committee on Environment and Technology

The 9th Meeting of the Committee on Environment and Technology was held on Friday, 21 November 2008 at 2:30 pm at Room 1201, Murray Building, Garden Road, Central.

Present:	Conrad WONG	(CW)	Chairman
	Andrew CHAN	(AC)	
	LAM Wo-hei	(WHL)	
	Peter LEE	(PL)	
	YU Wai-wai	(WWY)	
	C K AU	(CKA)	Director of Buildings
	Ken CHEUNG	(KC)	Housing Department
	HO Pun-hing	(PHH)	Hong Kong Federation of Electrical and Mechanical Contractors
	Russell JONES	(RJ)	Hong Kong Construction Association
	NG Shiu-ming	(SMN)	Association of Plastering Sub-contractors
	Anthony FOK	(AF)	Environmental Protection Department
	LI Kwok-keung	(KKL)	Electrical and Mechanical Services Department
	WONG Hon-kwok	(HKW)	Architectural Services Department
In Attendance:	YEUNG Kwok-keung	(KKY)	Principal Assistant Secretary for Development (Works) 1
	TAO Kei-hung	(KHT)	Chief Assistant Secretary for Development (Works) 1
	Jonathan LEUNG	(JL)	Chief Assistant Secretary for Development (Works) 5
	Rico CHEUNG	(RC)	Assistant Secretary for Development (Policy & Development) 3
	KWOK Wing-cheong	(WCK)	Assistant Secretary for Development (Works Polices) 2 (for Agenda item 9.8 only)
	Arnold KWOK	(AK)	Environmental Protection Department (for Agenda item 9.2 only)
	Joe FONG	(JF)	Environmental Protection Department (for Agenda item 9.2 only)

	Christopher TO	(CT)	Executive Director
	Ivan WONG	(IW)	Senior Manager (Council Services) 2
	Phoebe LEUNG	(PLG)	Manager (Council Services) 2
Apologies:	CHEUNG Tat-tong	(TTC)	
	KO Jan-ming	(JMK)	
	PANG Long	(LP)	Construction Site Workers General Union
	CHAN Yun-cheung	(YCC)	Principal Assistant Secretary for Development (Works) 3

PROGRESS REPORT

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9.1 Confirmation of the Progress Report of the 8th Meeting

Members took note of Paper CIC/ENT/R/008/08 and confirmed the progress report of the 8th meeting held on Tuesday, 19 August 2008 at Murray Building.

Noted

9.2 Proposal for Control of Volatile Organic Compound Emissions from Adhesives and Sealants

Members received a presentation from the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) on a proposal for control of volatile organic compounds (VOC) emissions from adhesives and sealants. The proposal is to extend the coverage of the Air Pollution Control (Volatile Organic Compounds) Regulation to include, among other products, adhesives and sealants. The amended Regulation was scheduled for enactment in mid-2009, with the VOC limits to be effective in two phases starting from 1 January 2010.

Members envisaged significant impacts brought by the impending enactment including availability of suitable substitutes for existing adhesives and sealants in terms of product features, prices and required workmanship. Members also concerned that the performance of substitutes would affect the procedures and progress of works. While EPD had identified suppliers and manufacturers to provide substitutes and would engage Hong Kong Productivity Council to conduct testing to substantiate their product features,

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Members suggested EPD properly consulting with industry stakeholders in particular CICTA, the Hong Kong Construction Association and the concerned subcontractors' unions to study the likely impacts on construction projects.

Noted

[AK and JF left the meeting at this juncture.]

9.3 Matters Arising from the 8th Meeting

9.3.1 Stocktaking of research projects

Letters were sent to local universities soliciting information of their research projects. Positive responses were received from the universities.

Noted

9.3.2 Soliciting research proposals from local universities, research institutes and professional consultant firms

The Secretariat was organizing the information provided by the universities and would proceed to solicit information from other research institutes and professional bodies.

Noted

9.3.3 Suggestions on practical research topics

Discussed under Agenda item 9.6.

Noted

9.3.4 Local universities to indicate their research interests

The Secretariat would explore collaborative opportunities with the universities after analyzing their projects information.

Noted

9.3.5 Vetting criteria and procedures for selecting practical research projects

Discussed under Agenda item 9.5.

Noted

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- 9.3.6 List of research institutes and professional consultant firms
- The list would be prepared and ready when extending tender invitation.
- Noted
- 9.3.7 Carbon Reduction Charter
- CIC had endorsed the participation in the Carbon Reduction Charter and EPD was informed accordingly.
- Noted
- 9.3.8 Key information on Hong Kong Green Building Council
- Discussed under Agenda item 9.4.
- Noted
- 9.3.9 Members elected Mr CHEUNG Hau-wai as a co-opted member to the Committee so as to have his continuous contributions to the construction industry.
- Noted
- 9.4 **Formation of Hong Kong Green Building Council**
- Information from Key Stakeholders was received by the Secretariat.
- Noted

[KHT left the meeting at this juncture.]

9.5 **Guidelines on Selection of Practical Research Projects**

Members took note of the Paper CIC/ENT/P/028/08 and advised the Secretariat to revise the proposed guidelines and procedures in order to cater for different proposal categories as follows –

- (a) Collaborative research (i.e. research initiated by a particular university or research institute); and
- (b) Research projects initiated by CIC.

The Secretariat was directed to circulate the revision to Members.

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[Post-meeting notes: the revised guidelines and procedures for selection of practical research projects are attached at Annex A.]

Members opined that there might be a need of a designated committee to take charge of research and development (R&D) activities and commissioning external experts for steering and on-going review of research projects. While the Committee on Administration and Finance (Com-ANF) would be responsible for funding allocation, Members suggested obtaining a lump sum allocation from Com-ANF so that the Committee could make use of the funding to co-ordinate and promote construction R&D and discharge its duties within the ambit. The Chairman would consider discussing the funding mechanism with Com-ANF.

The Secretariat was also advised to refer to established research funding bodies regarding the handling of intellectual property rights and the mechanism of funding project costs.

**CW/ CIC
Secretariat**

9.6 Suggestions on Practical Research Topics

The Chairman made a declaration of interest on this item in view of his capacity as President of the Hong Kong Construction Association (HKCA).

Members took note of the Paper CIC/ENT/P/029/08 and supported the research on river sand substitutes. However, the Secretariat was directed to check with professional bodies if similar research had been conducted.

For the research on adhesion technologies and fixing methods, Members noted that both the Buildings Department (BD) and the Housing Department (HD) had certain involvements in similar studies. Given that the proposed research would benefit the industry at large, Members shared the view that the research should proceed as an industry initiative put forth by CIC and avoid

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generating perception of regulatory proposals by government departments. The Committee therefore recommended CIC setting up a steering group and with the assistance of BD and HD, to work out an optimal research brief for further consideration.

CIC
Secretariat

9.7 Update on Task Force on Construction Standards for Buildings

Members took note of the Paper CIC/ENT/P/030/08. A Member explained that the task forces/ groups were set up to explore the way forward as BS would cease to exist in 2009. Although the stocktaking seemed to imply that there would be a trend towards BSEN as the Architectural Services Department had been migrating to BSEN, the task group on architectural works had not clearly addressed the issue. The Secretariat would follow up with the task group.

Members also noted that it might not be desirable for Hong Kong to adopt the Guo Biao standard or set up a standards body because of its complexity and economies of scale respectively.

CIC
Secretariat

[KKY and CT left the meeting at this juncture.]

9.8 Report from Task Force on Construction Standards for Infrastructures

Members took note of the Paper CIC/ENT/P/031/08.

Noted

9.9 Trade Task Force on the Mandatory Implementation of the Building Energy Codes

KKL made a declaration of interest on this item in view of his official responsibility for the mandatory implementation of the Building Energy Codes.

Members took note of the Paper CIC/ENT/P/032/08. KKL

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clarified that the mandatory implementation of Building Energy Codes carry no direct impacts on approval of building plans and issue of occupation permits though the submission of self-declarations to the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department would refer to the timelines of the respective events.

Members raised that making changes to building plans was common during the project planning stages. As such, clarification on how to handle self-declarations against revised building plans might be required. KKL would relay Members' concern to their Technical Task Force for consideration.

The Secretariat would continue to attend the meetings of the Trade Task Force and keep Members posted on the progress.

Noted

9.10 Update on Work Plan

Members took note of the Paper CIC/ENT/P/033/08. The updated work plan is given at Annex B.

Noted

9.11 Meeting Schedule for 2009

Members took note of the Paper CIC/ENT/P/034/08.

Noted

9.12 Any Other Business

Members noted the coming events –

- (a) Social Challenge and Business Opportunities – Managing Long Term Success” organized by HKQAA from 10 to 12 December 2008; and
- (b) China-HK Symposium on Green Building organized by HKU and China Green Building Council on 22 to 23 December 2008.

Noted

DRAFT

CIC/CMT/P/108/08
(for discussion)

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9.13 Proposed Tentative Date of the Next Scheduled Meeting

21 January 2009 (Wednesday) at 2:30 pm at Room 1201, Murray
Building, Central, Hong Kong

All to note

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:00 pm.

Guidelines on Selection of Practical Research Projects

Where applicable, the following criteria should be considered for selection of practical research projects –

1. Value of Project

- (a) whether the project has the potential to improve the development of construction industry particularly in areas of
 - Innovation and technology;
 - Environmental friendliness; or
 - Other initiatives of practical value; and
- (b) whether there is a demonstrated need for the proposed project.

2. Cost Effectiveness

- (a) whether the project can benefit the industry at large, not just individuals, a single private organization or a consortium of private companies; and
- (b) whether the estimated cost of the project is broadly commensurate with the expected results.

3. Project Implementation (applicable to Collaborative Research)

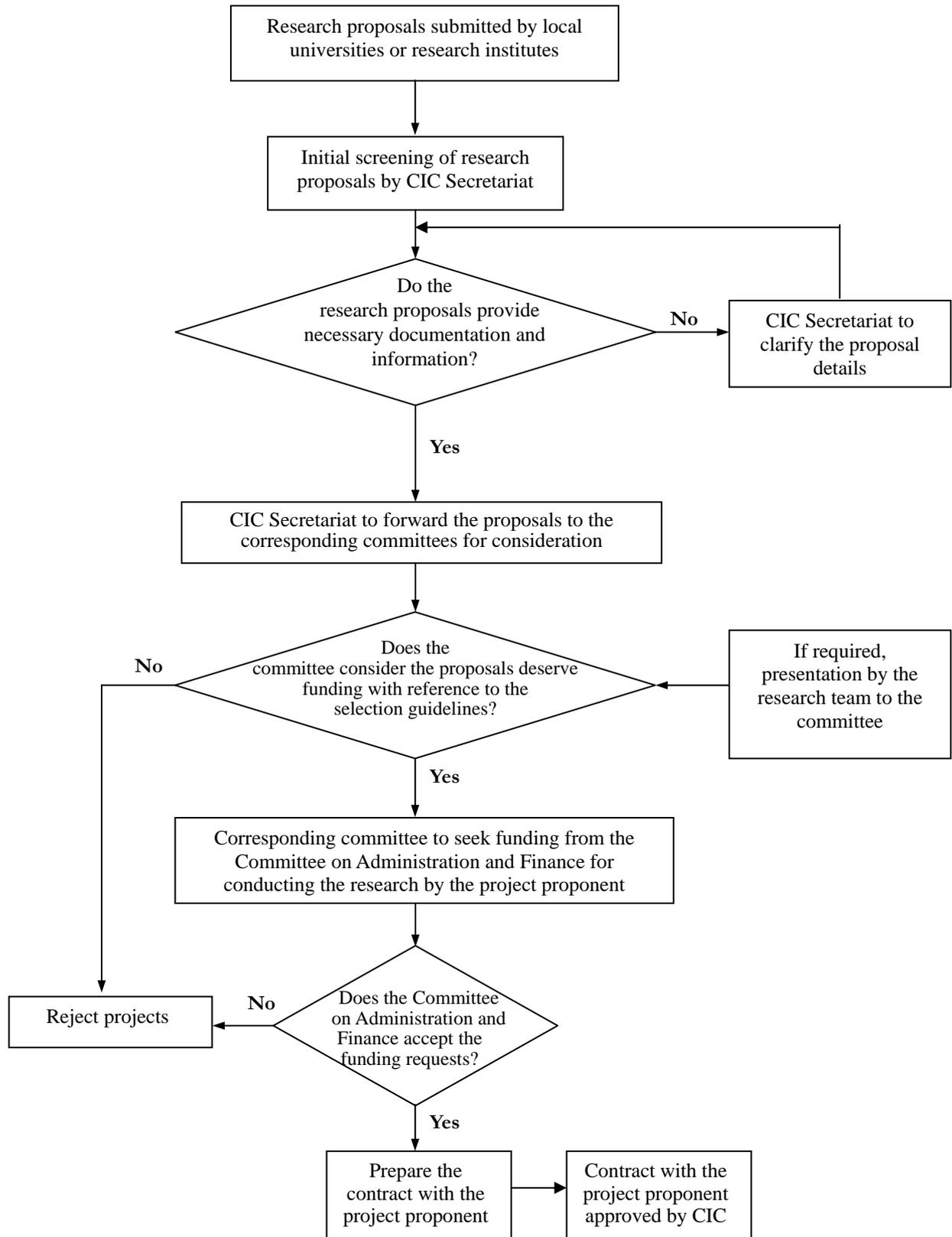
- (a) whether the project management capabilities are good, taking into account the project team members' experience, qualifications, track record and the resources available for the project;
- (b) whether the proposed budget is reasonable and realistic;
- (c) whether the implementation schedule of the project is properly planned; and
- (d) whether the project can be completed within a reasonable time frame.

4. Other Factors

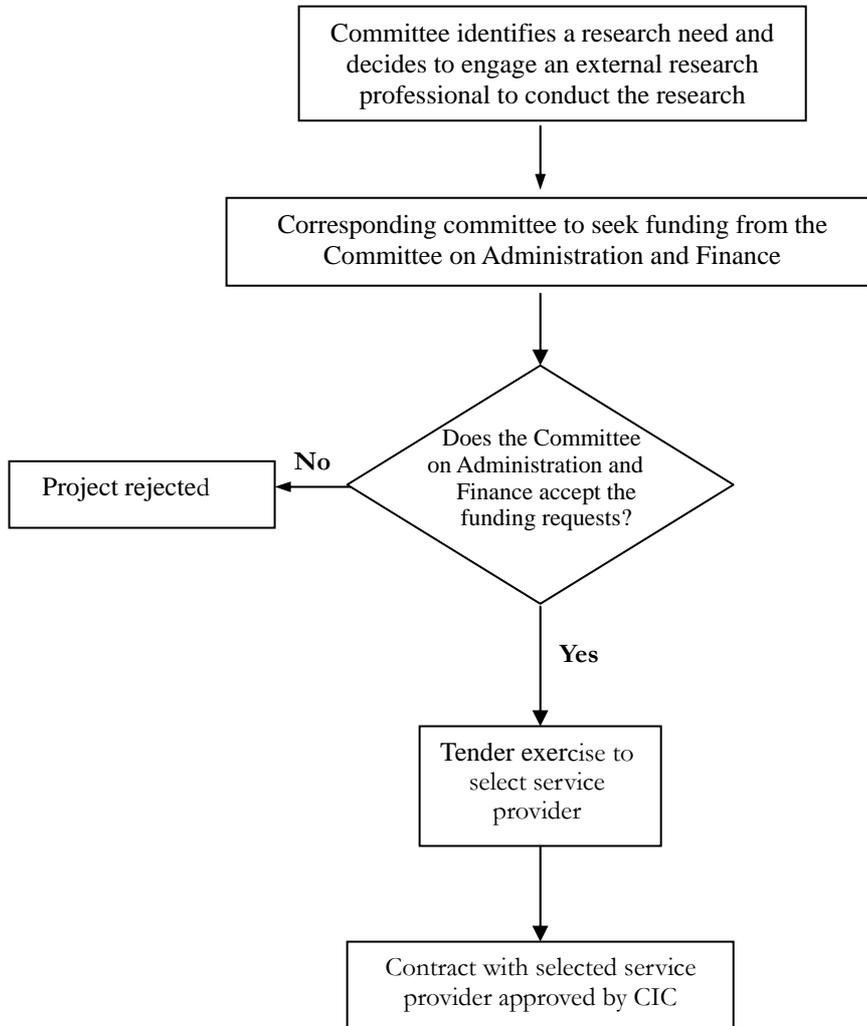
- (a) whether similar products, technologies or services are already available in the market, and whether the project is duplicating or likely to duplicate the work carried out by other institutions; and
- (b) whether the project should be funded fully or partly by other sources, such as the Research Grants Council or the Applied Research Fund.

Procedures for Handling Research Proposals

I. Collaborative Research



II. Research Projects initiated by CIC



Work Plan**(A) Construction Standards**

Revised Schedule	Original Schedule	Task
Apr – Dec 2008	Mar -Sep 2008	Task Forces on Construction Standards to conduct overall review of the construction standards used in Hong Kong in respect of infrastructures and buildings and identify the problems and issues associated with existing standards; for construction standards for buildings, three Task Groups namely architectural works, building services works and structural works to undertake the tasks for the specific areas respectively
Nov - Jan 2009	Oct/Nov 2008	Committee to devise the way forward for developing construction standards in Hong Kong and determine CIC's role in this initiative
Mar 2009	Dec 2008	CIC to approve the way forward

(B) Construction R&D

Revised Schedule	Original Schedule	Task
Oct – Dec 2008	Mar 2008	Invite industry stakeholders to propose R&D topics
Nov 2008	N/A	Guidelines on selection of practical research projects
Jan 2009	N/A	Compile database for R&D projects completed recently or being undertaken by academic institutions and research establishments
On-going	Apr/May 2008	Identify R&D projects
On-going		Committee on Administration and Finance to approve R&D projects

(C) Promotion of Green Buildings

Revised Schedule	Original Schedule	Task
Aug 2008	Mar 2008	Committee to formulate the institutional framework for the Hong Kong Green Building Council (HKGBC)
Nov 2008	Mar/Apr 2008	Agree on institutional framework with the Business Environment Council (BEC), HK-BEAM Society and Professional Green Building Council (PGBC)
Nov 2008	N/A	Form Founding Committee for formation of HKGBC
Jan 2009	Aug 2008	Establish HKGBC and its secretariat
1 st quarter of 2009	Sep 2008	HKGBC to draw up business plan and budget for the first financial year
1 st quarter of 2009	Oct 2008	CIC to approve business plan and budget for the first financial year

(D) Advising DEVB on sustainable construction

Revised Schedule	Original Schedule	Task
Early 2009	Late 2008	Discuss the findings of DEVB's study on sustainable construction and give advice on the way forward

**CIC Secretariat
November 2008**