

**Minutes of 10th Meeting of
Construction Industry Council
held on 20 June 2008 at 2:30 p.m.
in Room 1201, Murray Building, Garden Road, Central**

Present

Mr Keith Kerr	Chairman
Mr Russell Black	
Mr Francis Bong	
Dr Andrew Chan	
Ms Teresa Cheng	
Mr James Chiu	
Mr Thomas Ho	
Ir Edgar Kwan	
Mr W H Lam	
Mr Peter Lee	
Mr NG Koon-kwan	
Mr TSE Chun-yuen	
Mr WAN Koon-sun	
Mr Conrad Wong	
Mr Billy Wong	
Mr YU Wai-wai	
Mr C K Mak	Permanent Secretary for Development (Works)
Mr H W Cheung	Director of Buildings
Ms Ada Fung	Deputy Director (Development & Construction), HD
Miss Janet Wong	Deputy Secretary for Development (Works) 1
Mr Enoch Lam	Deputy Secretary for Development (Works) 2
Mr K K Yeung	Principal Assistant Secretary for Development (Works) 1
Mr K H Tao	Chief Assistant Secretary for Development (Works) 1
Mr Charles Wong	Acting Executive Director, CIC
Mr Ivan Wong	Senior Manager (Council Services), CIC
Ms Phoebe Leung	Manager (Council Services), CIC

Absent with Apologies

Mr T T Cheung
Mr CHOI Chun-wa
Mr Stanley Hui
Prof J M Ko
Mr Thomas Kwok
Mr S S Lee

Agenda Item 1: Confirmation of Minutes of the 9th Meeting held on 2 May 2008

The minutes circulated to Members on 16 June 2008 were confirmed without further amendments.

Agenda Item 2: Matters Arising

2. Members noted the following matters arising from minutes of the last meeting –

(a) Paragraph 5

The Guidelines on Safety of Tower Cranes, Site Safety Measures for Working in Hot Weather and Safety of Site Vehicles and Mobile Plant would be published on the CIC website in the following week while printed copies were being arranged for circulation;

[Post-meeting note: The guidelines were posted on the CIC website on 24 June 2008.]

(b) Paragraphs 7 and 8

The Secretariat was discussing with LD on the possibility of incorporating appropriate features of the Pay for Safety Scheme (PFSS) into the Safety Management System;

(c) Paragraph 9

DEVB was discussing with concerned bureaux on the possibility of adopting PFSS in subvented projects;

DEVB

(d) Paragraph 15

The Committee on Subcontracting would continue to discuss security of payment;

(e) Paragraph 17

The letter to DEVB on financial reimbursement to unsuccessful tenderers of design and build (D&B) contracts would be issued in the following week; and

[Post-meeting note: The letter was issued to DEVB on 23 June 2008.]

(f) Paragraph 18

DEVB commissioned a consultancy study on design and build contracts in June 2008 for completion in October 2008.

Agenda Item 3: 3rd Progress Report of Construction Industry Training Board
[Paper No. CIC/076]

3. At its 3rd meeting held on 16 June 2008, CITB agreed that new training courses should be organized as soon as possible in respond to the demand of the construction industry through redeployment of existing resources and using the funds in the approved budget for CITB. The 2008 Hong Kong Youth Skills Competition cum Construction Industry Careers Expo would be held on 9 and 10 August 2008 in the open area next to the Wang Yat Square in Tin Shui Wai and would aim to attract suitable persons (in particular those residing in the vicinity) to join the construction industry.

Agenda Item 4: 1st Progress Report of Objections Committee
[Paper No. CIC/077]

4. At the 1st meeting held on 24 May 2008, the Committee agreed on the procedures for conducting its proceedings. The Committee would arrange to publish its decisions on the CIC website on an anonymous basis to enhance transparency.

Accounts
Department

Verbal Report for 5th Meeting of Committee on Manpower Training and Development

5. MTRC gave a presentation to the Committee at its 5th meeting held on 17 June 2008 on the estimated labour demand from the five new railway projects which would employ about 19,100 workers when the demand peaked at 2013. CICTA would work closely with MTRC to increase the supply on trades (such as shot-firers and tunnel workers) on which shortages were anticipated.

6. Having considered the technical proposal of the City University, the Committee decided to appoint City University to undertake a manpower study for site supervisors, construction technicians and workers and would form a working group to closely monitor the progress of the study and ensure its timely completion by the end of 2008.

Agenda Item 5: Any Other Business

7. HKCA had written to CIC advising of its intention to transfer the frontline operation of the voluntary subcontractor registration scheme (VSRS) back to the Secretariat upon the expiry of the current service agreement in November 2008. The Secretariat would work out the transitional arrangements for discussion by the Committee on Subcontracting.

Secretariat

8. In response to the concern of the industry on the difficulties in coping with rapid escalation of construction costs, DEVB was exploring with other concerned bureaux the possibility of extending the provisions for contract price fluctuations (CPF) from public works contracts with contract period exceeding 21 months to contracts with shorter durations. DEVB was also considering whether improvements should be made to the existing indices for calculating CPF so that price fluctuation factors could better reflect movements in construction costs.

DEVB

9. Given that contractors engaged in private sector contracts could also face difficulties in coping with escalation of construction costs, Members agreed that the ways for dealing with contract price fluctuations in private sector contracts should be discussed by the Committee on Procurement.

Secretariat

10. The Informal Task Force on Behavioural Aspects of Construction Site Safety of the Committee on Construction Site Safety would develop guidelines on the behavioural-based approach to construction site safety to promote wider adoption by the industry. The Informal Task Force on Working in Hot Weather had completed the initial guidelines on safety measures for working in hot weather and would consider improving these through linking safety measures to heat stress on site personnel. The British Chamber of Commerce had submitted proposals via the Chairman for improving safety training and organizing safety awards which would be forwarded to the Committee for discussion

Secretariat

11. There being no other business, the open-door session was declared closed.

********End of Open-Door Session********