

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE



Safety holds a special place in my heart. As we reflect on 2024, I am proud of the direction we have taken in prioritising construction safety and digitalisation, achieving a decrease in safety incidents and launching innovative programmes. Our initiatives have fostered talent development, embraced advanced technologies, and promoted a more robust safety culture. I truly believe that our collective efforts have set a promising beginning for the future development of the construction industry.

Ir Prof. HO On-sing, Thomas

Commitment to Safety and Digitalisation

2024 was designated as the "Year of Construction Safety and Digitalisation", with our objectives centred around enhancing safety protocols and integrating digital technologies into our practices. Our goals were ambitious, as we sought to foster a more robust safety culture across the industry, integrate advanced technologies into construction processes, and nurture current and future practitioners for the sustainable development of the sector.

Strengthening Safety Culture: A Steadfast Commitment

I witnessed firsthand the dedication of our industry leaders and partners as we continued to roll out

Master Classes and conduct site visits to promote visible safety leadership. Collaborating with the Development Bureau (DEVB) and implementing the Smart Site Safety System Labelling Scheme (4SLS) and advancing Frontline Personnel Safety Performance Recording System (Safety Recording Scheme) were significant steps forward. The inauguration of the Design for Safety Workshop and advancements in our safety initiatives have further exemplified our commitment to fostering a safer working environment.

In 2024, we saw a decrease in fatalities from 20 to 14, but the occurrence of near misses reminds us that our work is far from over. I am committed to striving for zero fatalities and zero accidents. Strengthening our safety culture through visible leadership, comprehensive training, and innovative safety initiatives will be crucial as we move forward, and I am continuously inspired by the dedication of our teams to make this vision a reality.

Embracing Innovative Technologies in Construction

We are poised to grasp the future of construction through the Future Construction Excellence (FCE) Programme and the Global Construction Digitalisation Forum and Exhibition 2024 (GCDFE). The FCE Programme has provided participants with immersive learning experiences alongside over 50 international experts, while the GCDFE attracted over 10,000 attendees, showcasing the vast potential of construction digitalisation and fostering invaluable discussions on technologies like Artificial Intelligence (AI) and its potential applications, Building Information Modelling (BIM) and digitalisation platforms.

The promotion of construction robotics, highlighted by the Global Construction Robotic Day, the inaugural class of S690 welding robots and the deployment of multi-functional robots in handling skim coating, grinding and painting works in construction sites, has also demonstrated our commitment to enhancing our capabilities and advancing industry development. It is exciting to see these innovations come to life, streamlining operations and improving project outcomes.

Investing in Our Workforce and Future Talent

We deeply value our frontline workers, the backbone of our industry, and are committed to their well-being. Last December, we organised the inaugural Construction Workers Carnival, attracting 6,000 construction workers and their families. Seeing the joy on their faces was a reminder of why our efforts matter. The passage of the Security of Payment Legislation further strengthened our industry's framework, ensuring fair and timely payments, especially to the workers. To nurture new talents, we are injecting fresh energy into the sector through initiatives like master-level training courses on digital technology, smart construction, and advanced

robotics, as well as our collaboration with DEVB to introduce the "Multi-Skilled" Training Programme to encourage registered semi-skilled workers and/or skilled workers to receive training of another work trade, thereby enable workers to participate in more construction projects, enhancing their employment opportunities and fully utilising their talent and skills. Our success at the WorldSkills Lyon 2024, where we won two Medallions for Excellence, stands as a testament to our commitment to cultivating the next generation of construction professionals – an achievement that brings me great pride.

Transitioning into the New "3D" Era

As we move forward, we anticipate an acceleration in transforming the conventional view of construction as "dirty, dangerous, and demanding" into a new "3D" vision encapsulated by "total digitalisation", "digital leadership", and a "data-driven knowledge base". This shift is not merely about adopting new technologies, but redefining our approach to how we design, build, and manage our environments.

Total digitalisation represents a holistic approach that encourages us to adopt a "systems thinking" mindset. By viewing the built environment as an interconnected ecosystem, we can design solutions that address infrastructure, community needs, and environmental impacts.

Digital leadership is vital for driving the changes necessary for our industry's evolution. It involves integrating innovative solutions such as artificial intelligence (AI) and Large Language Models with digital twins. I envision a future where leaders inspire their teams to adopt concepts like "Mi-infinity" with standardised and prefabricated components, unlocking new levels of efficiency and collaboration.

Establishing a data-driven knowledge base is essential for fostering innovation within our organisations. By creating an academy to share insights and leveraging AI for in-house learning, we enhance our collective expertise, and I am sure our stakeholders will see a strong return on investment.

Showcasing Professionalism: Integrated Development in the Construction Industry

Looking ahead to 2025, the industry is committed to lowering construction costs by sourcing innovative building materials and promoting the adoption of Modular Integrated Construction (MiC) and Multi-trade Integrated Mechanical, Electrical and Plumbing (MiMEP) solutions. We are determined to address multi-layer subcontracting by introducing a standardised maximum of three layers, ensuring that subcontracting truly adds value to our projects. I am particularly excited about the launch of the Frontline Personnel Safety Performance Recording Scheme to ensure compliance on safety standards and recognising good practices. We will continue to champion Design for Safety while enhancing the well-being of our workforce by providing essential amenities, such as adequate sanitation facilities which is crucial in improving retention and morale.

On a broader scale, we will seize opportunities from the Northern Metropolis and transport network developments to expedite urban redevelopment projects. Our collaboration with the Greater Bay Area will allow us to pool talents and resources effectively, fostering an era of new quality productive forces in our industry.

Major Initiatives in 2025

I am thrilled about our initiatives for 2025, including the triennial flagship event, Construction Innovation Expo 2025, scheduled for December. This event will showcase cutting-edge construction technologies from around the world. We will also establish the Centre for Future Construction to highlight emerging technologies for industry practitioners. I eagerly anticipate the second cohort of the FCE Programme, set for September 2025, as well as the commemoration of the 50th anniversary of construction training which will develop the blueprint for the next generation of Vocational and Professional Education and Training (VPET). I am confident that these initiatives will position us at the forefront of innovation and excellence in construction.

Leveraging our new "3D" vision, we have designated 2025 as the "Year of Professionalism", focusing on five key areas:

- Enhancing construction safety
- Cultivating future talents for the construction industry
- Advancing digitalisation, New Quality Productive Forces and efficiency
- Being responsible to the society and environment
- Transforming the business environment

In closing, I extend my heartfelt gratitude to our industry partners for their unwavering support of the CIC. I am confident that we will navigate the challenges ahead and build a brighter, safer, and more prosperous future for the construction industry.

Ir Prof. HO On-sing, Thomas
Chairman, Construction Industry Council

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