

# EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT .....



Reflecting on 2024, I am reminded of T.S. Eliot's words, "Only those who will risk going too far can possibly find out how far one can go". This year has embodied that spirit as we navigated challenges and seized opportunities with resilience and innovation. Dubbed the "Year of Safety and Digitalisation", our focus on safety has not only safeguarded our workforce but has also fostered a caring culture within the industry. Digitalisation has opened new avenues for safety as well as efficiency and innovation, allowing us to improve by days with modern technologies and data. I am pleased that we made significant strides throughout 2024, which set a solid foundation for our industry's future.

*Ir CHENG Ting-ning, Albert*

## Fostering Construction Safety Culture

Safety is the cornerstone of our industry. We recognise that safety incidents can deter young talent. In 2024, we achieved a remarkable 30% reduction in safety fatalities. Our collaboration with the Development Bureau (DEVB) on the Smart Site Safety System Labelling Scheme (4SLS) underscores our commitment to stringent safety compliance. Under this scheme, we offer more than 20 tailored 4S product packages, supported by the Construction Innovation Technology Fund (CITF) which now covers related expenses such as system upgrades and technical support since May 2024. This proactive approach empowers contractors to implement necessary safety measures, streamlining on-site checks and reducing inspection frequency by the Labour Department. As of April 2025, I am proud that we awarded the 4S Label to over 530 projects.

To promote a positive safety culture, we organised numerous events including the Construction Safety Week, where industry experts shared insights on 4S adoption. A record 417 projects participated in the 30th Considerate Contractors Site Award Scheme, with 66 construction sites recognised for exceptional safety practices. Our 2nd CIC Outstanding Contractor Award (OCA) awarded over 23 contractors excelling in safety, innovation, professionalisation, integrity management, revitalisation, and environmental, social and governance (ESG), with a 20% increase in applications compared to 2021. We also introduced a new category to honour the contributions of Repair, Maintenance, Alteration and Addition (RMAA) contractors. I am glad to see that our contractors are committed to advancing construction safety and contributing to enhancing the quality of life.

Additionally, we maintained routine activities such as the "Walk the Talk" webinar series, engaging over 300 projects and attracting more than 38,000 attendees. Our Master Classes in Safety Leadership Culture provided essential training for project directors, complemented by the release of safety publications and promotional videos to enhance industry practices.

### Embracing Construction Digitalisation

Digitalisation has been pivotal for the CIC and the broader industry. A highlight of this commitment was the CIC Global Construction Digitalisation Forum and Exhibition 2024 (GCDFE). Over 10,000 physical and online visits were recorded, gathering global experts and technology ventures to explore construction digitalisation. The event also included the CIC Construction Digitalisation Award 2024, recognising nearly 30 local projects and organisations for their contribution in the promotion and adoption of digitalisation tools and workflows. The Global Construction Robotic Day displayed more than 20 cutting-edge construction robots and attracted over 8,000 visits.

To strengthen ties and explore advancements in technologies and robotics, we conducted over 45 visits to the mainland China, where we engaged with our counterparts on best practices in construction digitalisation, robotics, safety, and sustainable development. In June, we participated in the China International Exposition of Housing Industry & Products and Equipment of Building Industrialization, showcasing innovative technology solutions and products from the Hong Kong construction industry to our mainland peers. I would encourage our industry members to leverage CITF funding for technological investments, which exceeded HK\$1.49 billion in approved amounts last year. Whether through rental or purchase, these innovations can significantly enhance our construction practices.

The adoption of Modular Integrated Construction (MiC) has gained substantial traction, with Hong Kong's first residential building utilising this methodology completed off-site. This innovative methodology ensures that components are assembled efficiently, maintaining high-quality standards that justify significant investments.

### Commitment to Workforce Development

We prioritise education and skill development to cultivate a talented workforce. As of December 2024, over 660,000 construction workers were registered, a 4.5% increase from 2023. Our training initiatives successfully achieved an overall enrolment of 14,701 with 18,611 graduates. Notably, our first cohort of the revamped Advanced Diploma Programme saw eight graduates enrol in various universities. I am particularly proud that two of our CIC competitors, CHOW Lok-yin from welding and FONG Chun-yin from joinery, brought home Medallions for Excellence from WorldSkills Lyon 2024 – the first time Hong Kong has achieved this in eight years, inspiring the next generation to pursue trade-oriented careers.

Our partnerships with educational institutions in the Greater Bay Area such as South China University of Technology and Guangdong University of Technology facilitated meaningful exchange programmes, enriching our training initiatives and broadening perspectives on industry best practices, including green building waste recycling, smart construction advances, and best ways to adopt latest technologies. To further enhance our appeal to younger generations, we continued our collaboration with DEVB on the "Design for Future, Build for Life" publicity campaign, aiming to dispel stereotypical misconceptions towards the industry and attract fresh talent to our sector.

### Facilitating Streamlining and Self-Certification for Efficiency

In 2023, in representation of industry stakeholders, we proposed a self-certification framework enabling qualified professionals to verify regulatory compliance, streamlining processes and enhancing efficiency. With DEVB's support and our ongoing strategic efforts, we fostered collaboration among the government and industry stakeholders to explore 18 self-certification topics, encompassing areas such as foundation works, building materials, drainage and safety inspections, and environmental compliance, while promoting the mindset for successful implementation.



Throughout 2024, in collaboration with DEVB, government departments and industry stakeholders, we achieved notable milestones, including the introduction of a time pledge system to expedite approvals, conducting joint workshops to improve project execution, as well as holding stakeholder and pre-inspection meetings to streamline procedures. I am pleased to share that in November 2024, self-certification measures were outlined in the Government Workplan on Streamlining Development Control 2025. The CIC will continue to support these measures and explore new opportunities to drive efficiency and professionalism across the sector.

## Advancing ESG Initiatives

ESG practices are crucial for sustainable growth. Last year, we launched Smart Waste Management Tool and organised extensive webinars and engagement sessions. We also published "Decarbonisation Directions for Hong Kong Construction Industry" leaflet, offering insights into clean energy adoption, waste management, and high productivity construction.

To ensure the well-being of frontline workers, we advocated for improved facilities, including access to clean toilets and adequate rest areas. Our ongoing commitment to community engagement was apparent through our Construction Industry Sports & Volunteering Programme (CISVP), achieving over 240,000 service hours and benefitting more than 60,000 persons in 2024, earning us the Outstanding Non-commercial Organisation Award from the Agency for Volunteer Service's Hong Kong Volunteer Award.

Internally, I am immensely proud that we received the Grand Prize for Excellence Award from Hong Kong Management Association in 2024, a reflection of our commitment to quality standards and governance.

## Year of Professionalism

Looking ahead, we are designating 2025 as the "Year of Professionalism". Our goals include elevating safety and quality standards. A key initiative will be the Frontline Personnel Safety Performance Record Scheme, aimed at improving site safety and reducing accidents. We will also support DEVB in implementing the "One Examination, Multiple Certification" arrangement, promoting high-quality industry development, strengthening cooperation and enhancing the training quality of the construction industry within the Greater Bay Area.

In the Financial Secretary's 2025-26 Budget, with the DEVB's support, we will allocate approximately HK\$250 million for talent development and the promotion of construction safety. This includes HK\$174 million to train around 2,900 young talents, jointly allocated funding with DEVB totally about HK\$95 million to continue the provision of the on-the-job training subsidies benefitting about additional 1,000 students in construction-related degree programmes, and HK\$26 million for construction safety initiatives.

2025 also marks our 50th anniversary of construction training, coinciding with the opening of the Centre for Future Construction in Kowloon Bay. This centre will advocate digitalisation in the industry, fostering knowledge exchange and collaboration.

To improve the business environment, we will provide guidance on the Construction Industry Security of Payment Ordinance and promote the New Engineering Contract to foster stakeholder cooperation. The Registered Specialist Trade Contractors Scheme will enhance corporate visibility and expand business opportunities.

2025 will see a number of major events. The Construction Industry Outstanding Young Person Award will recognise and encourage young professionals. The Construction Innovation Expo will highlight groundbreaking technologies and industry practices, while the Construction Robot Competition and Exhibition will highlight latest advancements in construction robotics.

I extend my heartfelt gratitude to all council, board, committee and task force members for their valuable advice and contributions and the entire CIC team for their unwavering dedication and hard work, and to all stakeholders: clients, consulting firms, contractors, subcontractors, workers, and frontline personnel, who contribute to making our industry safer and more prosperous. I am confident that our collective effort in exemplifying professionalism will continue to transform our industry for the better.

**Ir CHENG Ting-ning, Albert**  
Executive Director, Construction Industry Council

June 2025