



CIC SNAPSHOTS

OCT 2012 ISSUE 2

The Construction Industry Council (CIC) is a frontrunner in propelling the development of the construction industry. As a people-oriented organisation, the CIC attaches great importance to building and maintaining ties with industry stakeholders. As part of efforts to boost communication, this bi-monthly “CIC Snapshots” is meant to provide industry stakeholders with a quick update on the CIC’s ongoing activities and deliberations on strategic matters made by the various committees of the CIC to-date.

Committee on Construction Site Safety

The Task Force on Site Safety of Working in Lift Shaft has started to review the safety situation for lift shaft works under Stage 3 (Throughout Occupation Stage). To visualise the actual safety hazards, the associated safety precautionary measures, as well as the responsibilities of the corresponding lift contractors and property management, four site visits had been organised for Members of the Task Force in the first half of 2012. A Task Group was also formed to draft Volume 3 of the Guidelines.



Meanwhile, the Informal Task Force on Site Safety Incidents published the “Safety Alert No. 001/12 on Water Pipe Laying Works – Pressure Test (Road Works)” (Alert) on 29 August 2012. The Alert contains recommendations on safety precautionary measures to address the potential hazards of water pipelaying projects that require excavation and pipe pressure tests.

The Task Force on Working in Hot Weather is working with its appointed Research Team to review and update the Guidelines on Site Safety Measures for Working in Hot Weather, which was first published in June 2008. To ensure the feasibility and practicability of the possible measures for implementation, a Task Group on Implementation of Heat Stress Action Plan will be formed.

Committee on Environment and Technology

The Researcher on River Sand Substitutes for Concrete Production and Cement Sand Mortar Production (Phase 1) has submitted its latest Progress Report in which viability of different materials as substitutes to river sand used in concrete and cement mortar, including crushed rock fine, manufactured sand, recycled aggregates, crushed waste glass and furnace bottom ash, were reviewed. The report on Strategy Implementation of Prefabrication and Modular Construction is being finalised which will be deliberated in the Committee soon. The study report on Research on Adhesion Technologies for External Wall Tiles has been endorsed by the Council, and will be published for the reference of industry stakeholders. In order to better manage the movement of construction waste, a Task Force on RFID and GPS Application in Construction Waste Monitoring will be set up.



Committee on Procurement

Representatives from the Committee on Procurement and the CIC Secretariat attended a "Brainstorming Workshop on Procurement" organised by the Development Bureau recently to share their views and experience on procurement of public works contracts on topics covering design competition, design and build contracts, innovation and creativity, and bidding costs. A Task Group on NEC3 Collaborative Contracts has also been formed under the Committee on Procurement to deliberate the way forward in promoting the use of collaborative contracts in the Hong Kong construction industry. Deliberation on the possible deliverables of the Task Group that aim to enhance industry stakeholders' understanding of the NEC3 as a form of collaborative contract is also in progress.



Committee on Subcontracting

A poster with creative design and illustrations will be produced to alert frontline construction workers to protect their payment rights. The Report on Security of Payment Legislation to Improve Payment Practices in the Construction Industry which recommends the enactment on the security of payment legislation has been endorsed and was submitted to the government for consideration.

The Voluntary Subcontractor Registration Scheme (VSRS) was launched in November 2003 and is now moving towards Stage 2 of its implementation. The CIC has also approved the Rules & Procedures for the VSRS Stage 2, which shall be renamed as the "Subcontractor Registration Scheme" ("SRS") and to be launched on 1 January 2013. The SRS mainly aims to enhance the integrity of Registered Subcontractor, facilitates new entrants to the subcontractor industry and refined operational details where appropriate for improving the scheme. A series of promotional activities on the SRS will be organised in the following quarters to allow stakeholders familiar with the new scheme. Stay tuned for further announcements in due course.



ZCB

ZCB is now in the final stage of its application for the Places of Public Entertainment (PPE) license and is expected to open its doors to the public in October 2012. In the meantime, the Multi-Purpose Hall of ZCB has started receiving bookings for conferences, seminars and other appropriate corporate activities. Stakeholders have been invited for preview tours of ZCB before the public opening.

Preparation work is now rolling in full steam to prepare the ZCB for public visits. Defects are being fixed and improvement outfit works are being carried out. One of the milestones was the connection of the ZCB renewable energy system to the city grid in August 2012.

CIC is in the process of applying for the charitable status for the Zero Carbon Building Company Limited. After the attainment of the charitable status, the Company will then be registered. Meanwhile, the Zero Carbon Building Board of Directors has been appointed. It comprises of the following members:

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|-----------------------------|----------------------|----------------------------|
| • Mr. YU Wai-wai (Chairman) | • Ir Dr. Andrew CHAN | • Mr. Peter CHENG |
| • Mr. LAM Wo-hei | • Ms. Salenda LAU | • Prof. Edward NG Yan-yung |
| • Mr. Christopher TUNG | • Mr. Christopher TO | |



Construction Industry Training Board / Committee on Manpower Training and Development

1. Updates on initiatives to enhance training and trade testing of CIC Training Academy

i) Enhanced Construction Manpower Training Scheme (also known as Build Up Scheme) and Contractor Cooperative Training Scheme

For the Enhanced Construction Manpower Training Scheme (ECMTS), launched in September 2010, a total of 1,891 persons were accepted for the short courses with 1,169 graduated by the end of August 2012. Whereas, the number of workers approved for CCTS was 335 with 209 persons having started/completed training. Detailed breakdown is as follows:-

Intakes and number of graduates under the Build Up Scheme up to the end of August 2012 are tabulated as follows:

| Trade | Intake up to 30 Aug 2012 | Number of graduates |
|--|--------------------------|---------------------|
| Bar-bending & Fixing | 734 | 475 |
| Timber & Aluminium Formwork | 342 | 190 |
| Metal Formwork & Concreting | 73 | 67 |
| Drainlayer | 38 | 29 |
| Site Surveying | 210 | 109 |
| Surveying and Setting-out | 386 | 242 |
| Metal Works | 61 | 38 |
| Tower Crane (Erecting, Dismantling, Telescoping & Climbing) Worker's Assistant | 24 | 11 |
| Construction Scaffolding Works | 23 | 8 |
| Total | 1,891 | 1,169 |

Intakes and number of graduates under the CCTS up to the end of August 2012 are tabulated as follows:

| Trade | Intake up to 30 Aug 2012 | Number of graduates |
|---|--------------------------|---------------------|
| Bar-bending & Fixing | 79 | 26 |
| Formwork | 49 | 21 |
| Leveller | 32 | 19 |
| Crawler Crane Operation | 15 | 10 |
| Ground Investigation Operator Assistant | 7 | 0 |
| Welding | 12 | 0 |
| Site Surveying | 15 | 0 |
| Total | 209 | 76 |

Amongst the trainees, about 78% of them are between the age of 20 and 44.

ii) Enhanced Construction Supervisor Training Scheme (ECSTS)

The new 15-month Certificate in Civil Engineering Supervision Course under the above ECSTS was approved by CITB in July 2012. Initially, two classes providing a total of 80 training places will be offered and provision of more classes is being explored through renting outside training space. During the 9-month classroom training in CICTA, the trainee will receive a daily allowance of \$180, which is around \$4,300 per month. A daily allowance of \$250, around \$6,000 per month, will then be given during the subsequent 6-month on-the-job training. The first class has been scheduled for coming October 2012.

iii) Waive of course fee for skills enhancement courses and study of outsourcing

For the Skill Upgrading Course for Plumber (Intermediate Level) and Skill Upgrading Course for Plumber offered in 2011, a total of 162 applications from in-service plumbers were received and 138 in total completed the two courses. In addition, the course fees for five new skills enhancement courses on Carpenter (Formwork-Civil Construction), Floor Layer (Timber Flooring), Bamboo Scaffolder, Metal Scaffolder, and General Welder approved by CITB will be waived for the first three months upon launching. In the meantime, details of outsourcing these skills enhancement courses are being revised and would be re-submitted for the consideration of CITB.

iv) Fee exemption for taking trade tests and intermediate trade tests

To encourage registered general workers to take intermediate trade test/trade tests, fee will be exempted if applications are filed in between July and September 2012. From July to August, a total of 2,719 applications are received so far compared with 1,763 applications received in the corresponding two months in the previous year, representing a rise of 54.2%. The response is encouraging.

2. Other efforts to boost training capacity

i) New outdoor training grounds and searching for other suitable parcels of land

In order to increase the current training capacity of ECMTS trades from 1,200 per year to 2,300 in the first quarter of 2013, applications have been filed in for a number of outdoor training grounds, namely:

| | | |
|---|---|--|
| i) Tung Chau Street in Sham Shui Po | } | Taken over in July 2012 and classes are expected to commence in September 2012 |
| ii) Siu Lun Street in Tuen Mun | | |
| iii) Yuen Kong Public School in Yuen Long | } | Applications being processed by DLO |
| iv) San Tin ST7 in Yuen Long | | |
| v) Wong Lung Hang in Tung Chung | | |

In addition, after the current training activities in Shatin Training Ground are relocated to Tai Po Area 33, of which draft tenancy agreement was received in July, the vacated training ground will be used for ECMTS training purpose too. The search for suitable parcels of land for training will continue. It is anticipated that the ECMTS' target of providing 6,000 training places in total could be met by the end of 2014.

ii) Training capacities of full-time courses and conduct of regular manpower survey

To ensure the stable supply of new entrants for the construction industry, training capacities of regular full-time courses for the 2012/2013 training year are approved in July 2012 as follows and the related trainee allowances are also uplifted to maintain the attractiveness of the courses:

| Full-time courses | Proposed capacity for 2012/13 | Trainee allowance | Trainee Site practice allowance |
|---|-------------------------------|-------------------|---------------------------------|
| Regular Short Courses | 1,492 | \$150 per day | --- |
| Basic Craft Courses | 540 (1st yr:440; 2nd yr:100) | \$2,800 per month | \$105 per day |
| Regular Construction Supervisor/Technician Training Programme | 263 (1st yr:160; 2nd yr:103) | \$2,800 per month | \$105 per day |

To swiftly respond to the latest market changes, CICTA apart from conducting a 6-monthly survey on manpower demand through the Hong Kong Construction Association, had directly sent letters to developers, government departments and public utilities, to enquire about the timetable of new works, construction projects involved and the related manpower required. Information collected will be compared with the data kept by the CWRA and be discussed with our research consultant to adjust the above proposed capacity of full-time courses. The manpower survey is a regular exercise to facilitate better planning of allocation of teaching resources.

iii) Construction Vocational Cantonese Course

The first class of the 60-hour Construction Vocational Cantonese Course for the minorities interested in joining the construction industry has been scheduled for 24 September 2012 and a total of 17 applications are received. Classes have also been lined up in December 2012, March 2013 and June 2013. More classes will be arranged if the response is favourable.



CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY COUNCIL

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