



CIC SNAPSHOTS

DEC 2012 ISSUE 3

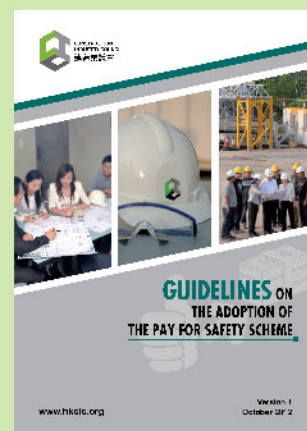
The Construction Industry Council (CIC) is a frontrunner in propelling the development of the construction industry. As a people-oriented organisation, the CIC attaches great importance to building and maintaining ties with industry stakeholders. As part of efforts to boost communication, this bi-monthly "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

To ensure the health and safety of construction workers who need to come into contact with volatile organic compounds, a Task Group on Safety and Health of Workers Engaging in Renovation Works on Occupied Commercial Premises under the Committee on Construction Site Safety (Com-CSS) prepared a Safety Alert to suggest protective measures for owners and tenants, property management companies, contractors as well as workers. "Safety Alert No.002/12 on Safety Related Matters of Workers Engaging in Renovation and Repair Works (with the use of volatile organic compounds) in Commercial Premises" was issued on 9 November 2012.

The CIC is concerned about the recent suspected electrocution accidents in construction and renovation works sites. To prevent similar accidents from happening again, the Informal Task Force on Site Safety Incidents of the Com-CSS issued the "Safety Alert No.003/12 on Prevention of Electrocution" (Alert) on 23 November 2012. A Technical Seminar on Prevention of Electrocution will also be organised on 18 December 2012. Both alerts mentioned are available for download at our website at <<http://www.hkcic.org>>.

The "Guidelines on the Adoption of the Pay for Safety Scheme (PFSS)", meanwhile, will be published on 13 December 2012 to encourage industry stakeholders to improve site safety performance by adopting the "pay-for-safety" principles.



Committee on Environment and Technology

A new task force on the use of RFID and GPS to monitor the movement of construction waste is being formed. We are delighted to have Mr. Simon WONG, CEO of the Hong Kong R&D Centre for Logistics and Supply Chain Management Enabling Technologies, chairing the new task force.

The final report on the Research on River Sand Substitutes for Concrete Production and Cement Sand Mortar Production (Phase One) is being prepared. The study consultant has the initial view that manufactured sand is a viable substitute to river sand and is also suitable for the production of high-performance concrete.

Following a presentation delivered by the Hong Kong Accreditation Service, further discussion on the opportunity to leverage product certification scheme in the construction industry will be made.

Committee on Procurement

A Task Force on Employer-Procured Insurance Policies in Construction Contracts will be formed to review the applicability of employer-procured insurance policies, also known as Owner-Controlled Insurance Programme (OCIP), in local construction contracts.

To enhance industry stakeholders' understanding on the use of NEC3 as a form of collaborative contracts, the Task Group on NEC3 Collaborative Contracts will embark on drafting a Frequently Asked Question (FAQ) publication on NEC3.

Meanwhile, the Task Force on Competition Law will prepare an article summarising the key provisions of the Competition Ordinance and issue it for stakeholders' reference before the substantive provisions of the Ordinance come into force. Mr. Christopher TO, Executive Director of the CIC, attended a conference on competition law recently to share views on the Competition Ordinance and its potential effect on the construction industry.



Committee on Subcontracting

The electronic version of the poster entitled "Protect Your Payment Rights" is now available for download at our website at <<http://www.hkcic.org>>. The printout copies have also been distributed to the relevant stakeholders. Companies are encouraged to put them up at construction sites to raise awareness amongst frontline workers over how they can protect their payment rights.

The draft reference material on application of dispute resolution in construction contracts has been approved by the Council and will be made available to the public soon.

An informal working group will be established to deliberate and review the feasibility of including variable remuneration in the specimen employment contract.

The Stage 2 Voluntary Subcontractor Registration Scheme (VSRS), which will be renamed to "Subcontractor Registration Scheme" (SRS), will be launched on 1 January 2013. In this regard, the CIC has organised a series of briefing sessions between October and December 2012 for stakeholders to familiarise with the new initiative. For details, please refer to this website: <<http://www.hkcic.org/vsrs/index.htm>>.



ZCB has recently formed three working committees. It comprises the following members:

Committee on Administration and Finance (CAF)

Chairman : Mr. YU Wai-wai

Members : Mr. LAM Wo-hei, Mr. Christopher TO, Mr. Christopher TUNG

Committee on Technology Development (CTD)

Chairman : Mr. LAM Wo-hei

Members : Ir Dr. Andrew CHAN, Mr. Peter CHENG, Prof. Edward NG, Mr. Christopher TUNG

Committee on Publicity and Fundraising (CPF)

Chairman : Mr. Peter CHENG

Members : Ms. Salenda LAU, Mr. Christopher TO, Mr. YU Wai-wai



Since its official opening in June 2012, events and activities of ZCB are summarised as follows:

Preview Tours	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Over 2,600 visitors from 99 different stakeholder organisations, government departments, professional institutions, trade associations and other non-profit making organisations, including a high-level delegation from the Hong Kong and Macau Affairs Office of the State Council and 17 provincial offices
Use of ZCB Multi-purpose Hall	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 18 different conferences, seminars, forums and corporate events hosted at the Multi-purpose Hall of ZCB
Presentation on ZCB Project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Being invited to present on the ZCB project at 10 different conferences, seminars and symposiums
Media Coverage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 28 print news coverage, 11 online coverage and 3 TV programmes
ZCB Ambassadors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The first workshop for the ZCB Ambassadors held on 25 September 2012 for more than 50 BEAM Pros, of whom 14 signed up for the ZCB Ambassadors on the spot
Student ZCB Ambassadors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Working with the Environment Protection Department to launch the Student ZCB Ambassador Scheme Training workshops lined up between December 2012 and January 2013, with the first one scheduled for 8 December 2012

Coming events:

Press Briefing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A press briefing has been scheduled for 17 December 2012 for the public opening of ZCB
Family Fun Weekend	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In celebration of the festive season, ZCB is organising a Family Fun Weekend on 22 and 23 December 2012. Activities will include Christmas carol singing, dance performance, workshops for children and free tours of ZCB

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 2,151 persons will be/were trained/being trained for the short courses with 1,378 having graduated by the end of October 2012. Whereas the number of workers approved for CCTS was 391 with 275 persons having started/completed training. The detailed breakdown is as follows:-

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

Trade	Intake up to 31 Oct 2012	Number of graduates
Bar-bending & Fixing	823	524
Timber & Aluminium Formwork	417	234
Metal Formwork & Concreting	85	67
Drainlayer	38	29
Site Surveying	262	144
Surveying and Setting-out	406	296
Metal Works	73	54
Tower Crane (Erecting, Dismantling, Telescoping & Climbing) Worker's Assistant	24	22
Construction Scaffolding Works	23	8
Total	2,151	1,378

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

Trade	Intake up to 31 Oct 2012	Number of graduates
Bar-bending & Fixing	94	29
Formwork	73	34
Leveller	36	28
Crawler Crane Operation	20	15
Ground Investigation Operator Assistant	13	2
Welding	12	9
Site Surveying	15	0
Tunnel Worker	12	0
Total	275	117

Amongst the trainees, about 80% 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 and two classes providing a total of 80 training places were commenced in 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 their launch. 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 tests/trade tests, fees were exempted if applications were filed in between July and September 2012. During the said period, a total of 4,125 applications were received so far compared with 2,637 applications received in the corresponding three months in the previous year, representing an increase of 56.4%. The response is encouraging and extension of the fee-exemption period is being considered.

2. Other efforts to boost training capacity

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

The status of applications for a number of outdoor training grounds to increase the current training capacity of ECSTS trades from 1,200 per year to 2,300 in the first quarter of 2013 is recapped as below:

i) Tung Chau Street in Sham Shui Po	}	Taken over in July 2012 and classes commenced in September 2012 as scheduled
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	}	Short-term tenancy agreement will soon be granted

In addition, the tenancy agreement of Tai Po Area 33 was signed in late October 2012 and the land would be used to house the training activities currently conducted in the Shatin Training Ground. Once all these new training grounds are rolled out, CIC Training Academy will be able to meet the target of 6,000 graduates by October 2014.

ii) New Training Course

To meet the shortage of marble workers in the coming five years, a new short full-time course on Marble Fixing is recently approved by the CITB. The course duration is 97 days and a daily allowance of \$150 will be given. The first class is scheduled for commencement in early 2013.

iii) Construction Vocational Cantonese Course

The first class of the 60-hour Construction Vocational Cantonese Course for the ethnic minorities interested in joining the construction industry was held in September 2012. Three classes have been lined up in December 2012, March 2013 and June 2013. If the response is favourable, more classes will be arranged.

3. Other activities

i) Conference on Materials, Techniques and Construction Management of Heritage Architecture in Mainland China and Hong Kong

In collaboration with the Architectural Conservation Programmes of The University of Hong Kong, the Commissioner for Heritage's Office of the Development Bureau and the Antiquities and Monuments Office of the Leisure and Cultural Services Department, the Construction Industry Council held the captioned half-day Conference on 2nd December 2012 at the University of Hong Kong to enhance knowledge and facilitate the development of built heritage by local practitioners. Mainland China as well as local professionals were present to share their experience in the use of materials, techniques and management of built heritage.

ii) 2012 Graduation Ceremony

The 2012 Graduation Ceremony of the CIC Training Academy was held on 29 November 2012 and was officiated by the Commissioner for Labour. In the 2011/2012 training year, about 2,150 trainees completed the full-time courses. Graduates with outstanding performance were presented with awards or scholarships donated by institutions and associations of the industry, including the Hong Kong Construction Association.



CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY COUNCIL

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