



As part of its commitment to promote the interests of the construction industry in Hong Kong, the Construction Industry Council (CIC) publishes *CIC Snapshots* every two months to provide industry stakeholders with regular updates on the CIC's ongoing activities and the strategic issues handled by its committees.

## Committee on Construction Site Safety

### Construction Safety Week 2013

The CIC co-organised Construction Safety Week 2013 with the Development Bureau from 27-31 May 2013. The aim of the campaign was to continue promoting and reinforcing the "Zero Accident" message to practitioners in the construction industry.

Overwhelming support was received from more than 30 organisations, covering a wide spectrum of the industry. Construction Safety Week 2013, which included a one-day conference, various site visits and a safety award ceremony, attracted excellent participation and positive feedback from both the industry and the general public.



HKSAR Chief Executive LEUNG Chun-ying officiated at the opening of Construction Safety Week 2013 at Kai Tak Development Area on 27 May.





Permanent Secretary for Development (Works) Ir WAI Chi-sing and CIC Chairman Mr. LEE Shing-see provided a theatrical introduction to the Construction Safety Week Conference on 28 May.



Various site activities were held during the week to reinforce the "Zero Accident" message.

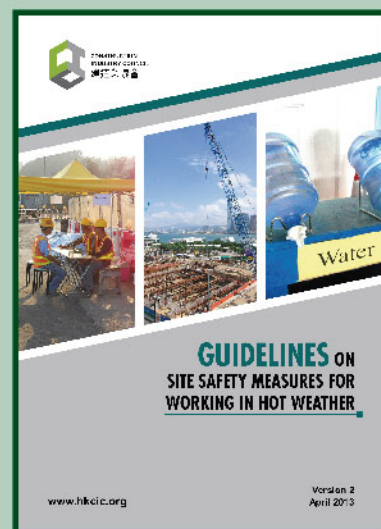


## Guidelines and Safety Alerts

On 29 April 2013, the Construction Industry Council (CIC) published the *Guidelines on Site Safety Measures for Working in Hot Weather*. The guidelines set out the framework for good practices to protect construction workers working in hot weather and to minimise the risk towards site personnel working in hot weather. The guidelines also provide guidance for employers, main contractors, subcontractors and construction workers, on heat stress assessments as well as safety measures and special arrangements for working in hot weather at construction sites. Industry stakeholders are strongly encouraged to start adopting the good practices as recommended in the guidelines.

Mobile metal scaffolds have been increasingly used for work-at-height in Repair, Maintenance, Alteration and Addition (RMAA) works. For the purpose of enhancing site safety for RMAA works, the Task Force on Work Safety of Repair, Maintenance, Alterations and Additions (RMAA) Sites of the CIC's Committee on Construction Site Safety (Com-CSS) prepared a safety alert for reference by the practitioners. *Safety Alert No. 001/13 on Safe Use of Mobile Metal Scaffolds for Repair, Maintenance, Alteration and Addition Works* was published on 13 May 2013. The Safety Alert No. 001/13 is aimed at highlighting essential elements for the attention of employers, contractors and workers in taking appropriate measures for the safe use of mobile metal scaffolds.

Method statements specify the detailed working procedures for the completion of particular construction activities on site and are prepared and intended for use by frontline workers in conducting construction works. To encourage wider adoption of method statements on sites by the construction industry, the Com-CSS prepared and published *Safety Alert No. 002/13 on Adoption of Method Statements on Sites* on 20 May 2013. The Safety Alert No. 002/13 is aimed at providing contractors a reference when preparing method statements, reminding them to place a greater emphasis on protecting workers from possible hazards and risks associated with construction activities.



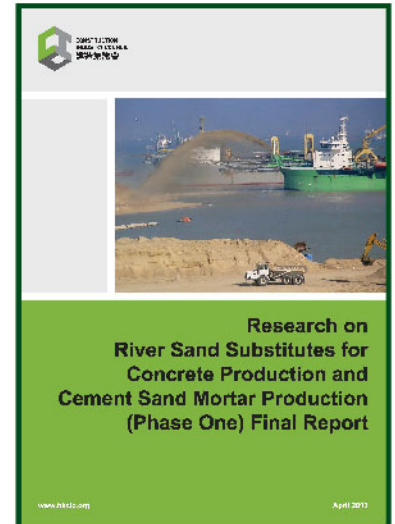
## Committee on Environment and Technology

The Committee on Environment and Technology (Com-ENT) continued to drive new initiatives and developments for the construction industry.

### River Sand Research

Following the issuance of the *Study Report of Research on River Sand Substitutes for Concrete Production and Cement Sand Mortar Production (Phase One)*, in order to expedite the study process with a view to coming up with a specification of river sand substitutes for practical use and to maintain continuity between the Phase One Study and the Phase Two Study, the Com-ENT decided to commission the University of Hong Kong to carry out the Phase Two Research Study aiming to:

- draft a set of specifications for aggregate for different types of mortar and a set of requirements for classification of manufactured sand;
- study the feasibility of crushing and processing waste glass for recycling as aggregate for mortar; and
- study the feasibility of crushing and processing old concrete for recycling as aggregate for concrete and mortar.



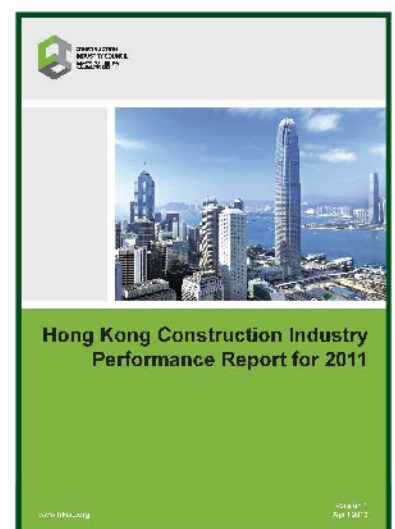
### Carbon Labelling Scheme

The Committee also endorsed an implementation strategy for the Carbon Labelling Scheme for construction material suppliers to apply for the certification of the carbon footprint of their products.

The Scheme will initially focus on the carbon footprint of cement and steel. Details of the Carbon Labelling Scheme and the certification of the carbon footprint of those construction materials will be available soon.

### Industry KPI Report

With independent vetting by Rider Levett Bucknall, the Com-ENT endorsed the *Hong Kong Construction Industry Performance Report for 2011* which includes the construction industry performance in terms of productivity, health and safety, and manpower over the last 11 years (2001 – 2011). The report is available for download from the CIC's website.





## BIM Roadmap

A study report relating to the strategic implementation roadmap of Building Information Modelling (BIM) in Hong Kong is being finalised in which two key actions, among others, are suggested:

- setting up a new task group to work out industry standard/ specification/ common practice/ reference document to allow the industry to follow;
- promoting BIM to industry stakeholders who are observers or beginners in the adoption of BIM.

In order to disseminate the news about BIM and to promote it as well as to provide an update on the working progress of the CIC on BIM, a new publication “BIM: Fact Sheet” has been issued and is also available on the CIC’s website for download.



## Research

### Task Force on Research

A new Task Force on Research has been set up to oversee the provision of funding support by the CIC to research projects submitted by research institutes. The Task Force is composed of the following members:

Chairman:	Mr. Jimmy TSE
Members:	Mr. Russell JONES
	Prof. Christopher LEUNG
	Ir Joseph MAK
	Ir Derrick PANG
	Prof. WONG Sze-chun

### Research Funding Application

A call for research funding applications will be made around March and September each year. Following the six research projects awarded recently in pursuance of the call for funding applications in September 2012 (at a total value of HK\$6.4 million), another call for proposals was announced on 15 March 2013 and closed on 15 May 2013. The received proposals are being reviewed and the funding support results are expected to be released in August 2013.

### Construction Worker Survey

With the aim of obtaining updated employment status of construction workers in Hong Kong as well as soliciting their preferred welfare benefits, an extensive survey was conducted in April 2013 through various CIC Workers Registration Offices. Around 3,000 valid survey responses were collected which are now being analysed.



## Committee on Procurement

### Competition Law Comes Under Spotlight

The *Competition Ordinance* passed by the Legislative Council last year marks a key milestone in the development of competition policy in Hong Kong and is important to all in the construction industry.

With the dedicated support from the Chairman and members of the Task Force on Competition Law and the Committee on Procurement, the Council issued a number of publications in the preceding months which aimed at introducing the *Competition Ordinance* and its potential implications for the construction industry to stakeholders.

These included the publication of a *Procurement Fact Sheet* on the *Competition Ordinance* on the CIC website and articles in the CIC Newsletter and newspapers.

A Competition Law cum Security of Payment Forum was also successfully held on 3 May 2013, a week after the Government announced the appointment of the Chairperson and members of the Competition Commission.

The main objective of the Competition Law session of the Forum was to help inform construction industry stakeholders, small and medium-sized enterprises in particular, the key provisions of the *Competition Ordinance* and some practical steps to avoid infringing the new law.





Following the opening remarks from Mr. LEE Shing-see, Chairman of the CIC, the Hon. Dennis KWOK, Member of Legislative Council, delivered the Keynote Address on *Hong Kong's First Cross-Sector Competition Ordinance, Cap. 619 – An Overview* which opened the Competition Law session of the Forum. Renowned local and overseas speakers and panelists then shared views and experience on the Competition Law with participants through presentations and a panel discussion led by Ir CHEW Tai-chong, Chairman of the Committee on Procurement, discussing a range of competition law compliance issues.



## Concerns Raised Over Contract Practices

A set of *Procurement Alerts* to draw the attention of stakeholders to the need to follow good practice in relation to the procurement of construction contracts, were released and published on the CIC website in May 2013. The alerts entitled *Recent Issues of Concern on Tendering of Construction Contracts* covers the following three topics:

- Contracts with quantities provided but not forming part of the contract;
- Deletion of "Extension of Time clauses" in construction contracts; and
- Signing of undated Building Authority's Specified Forms for notification or certification of events which have yet to take place.

The Council and the Committee on Procurement will continue to work with stakeholders to recommend good practices to improve the quality and effectiveness in the delivery of construction contracts.



## Committee on Subcontracting

### Dispute Resolution

The Working Group on the Review of the Implementation of the Dispute Resolution Mechanism had its first meeting on 13 May 2013 to start reviewing the *Reference Materials for Application of Dispute Resolution in Construction Contracts* issued by the CIC in January 2013 with a view to addressing any practical issues in its actual implementation.

The Task Force on Adoption of Dispute Resolution Advisor System in Subcontracts has been established with members representing major stakeholder groups in the industry to explore the possibility of adopting the Dispute Resolution Advisor System at different levels of subcontracts.

### Security of Payment

A brief update was given to the Committee on Subcontracting on the progress of the Working Group on Security of Payment Legislation for the Construction Industry managed by Development Bureau. The timeline and legislative process were proposed as follows:

- To complete the working group discussion of all six key areas by the end of 2013;
- To conduct public consultation in 2014 to collect the views of the public and stakeholders on the essential elements and framework of the proposed legislation on security of payment; and
- To introduce the bill to the Legislative Council in 2015-2016.

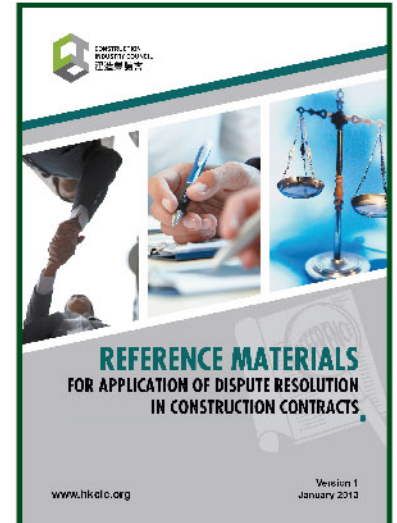
### Competition Law cum Security of Payment Forum

On 3 May 2013, the Competition Law cum Security of Payment Forum was successfully organised with about 140 participants from the construction industry as well as legal professionals. A number of top-notch speakers from Hong Kong, Singapore and the UK were invited to share their experiences, views and insights at the forum in respect of the implementation of security of payment legislation, which aroused strong interest and many questions from the floor.

### Subcontractor Registration Scheme

The SRS has been operating smoothly since its implementation on 1 January 2013. Six briefing sessions were organised in the first quarter of this year to familiarise subcontractors with the SRS.

To strengthen communication with industry stakeholders and keep subcontractors abreast of the new requirements for the registration scheme, the Secretariat will continue to organise briefing sessions on a monthly basis. For further details and registration for the briefing sessions, please visit the SRS section on the CIC website under "Services" ([www.hkcic.org/srs](http://www.hkcic.org/srs)).





## Construction Workers Registration Board

### Simplified Specified Training Courses Launched

Specified Training Courses (STC), which are custom-made for provisionally registered skilled workers, launched a simplified version of course assessment on 12 December 2012. After completing the STC of a respective trade and passing the course assessment, provisionally registered workers will be eligible to register as a skilled worker for that trade.

The Construction Workers Registration Board hopes that the new assessment mechanism will encourage provisionally registered workers to take the course, pass the assessment and become fully registered as soon as they can.

All 67 simplified STC are now open for enrollment. For details on course content, procedures and “points to note” for the assessment, please visit the Construction Workers Registration section on the Construction Industry Council website at: <http://cwr.hkcic.org/aboutus/estc.asp>

Employers are invited to remind their employees who are provisionally registered skilled workers but have not yet taken the STC, to act now and enroll in courses relating to their trades.

### New Registration System Rolled Out

The Computerised Registration Management System (CRMS) has been the backbone for construction workers registration, running for seven years. In view of the rising number of registered workers due to the booming construction industry, and the demand for more comprehensive construction manpower data, the CIC has rolled out the re-development of the registration system.

The new system, tentatively named Construction Workers Registration System (CWRS), will provide a more accurate, reliable and efficient platform for processing workers registration applications, collecting and retrieving registration data and site attendance records, as well as preparing various reports for analysis.

In a bid to understand the needs of contractors, trade unions and associations in relation to site attendance records and construction manpower data, and also to inform stakeholders of the progress of the redevelopment project, CIC organised three consultation sessions between 18 and 25 April 2013.



Around 300 participants, who attended the sessions, were introduced to the features and operation flow of the new system. A question and answer session provided valuable feedback from industry stakeholders.

The presentation handouts from the consultation sessions are available on the Construction Workers Registration section of the CIC website at: <http://cwr.hkcic.org/aboutus/Cinfo.asp>

## ZCB

### ZCB Named “Champion” of Innovation at Engineering Industry Awards

ZCB has won the “Champion of the Innovation Award for the Engineering Industry” (construction category) organised by the Hong Kong Institution of Engineers (HKIE). In its inaugural year, the Award honours engineering inventors who dedicate their professionalism to improving our living quality and introducing the general public to innovative ideas.

The Innovation Award for the Engineering Industry aims to foster a spirit of innovation and to encourage advancement in technology in the local engineering industry. The Panel of Judges comprised leading figures in the local engineering industry. Criteria for selection included innovativeness, sustainability and practicality.

The Innovation Award for the Engineering Industry is the newest addition to a growing list of recognition earned by ZCB since its completion in June 2012. Other awards and recognition include:

- Grand Award in New Building Category (Building under Construction) of the Green Building Award 2012;
- Innovation Award of the Year of the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors Hong Kong Property Awards 2013;
- One of the first buildings in Hong Kong to achieve Platinum Rating of Building Environmental Assessment Method (BEAM) Plus, the highest rating for excellent building environmental performance; and
- FuturArc Green Leadership Award 2013 in the Institutional Category by BCI Asia





## Zero Carbon Building Limited Established

Zero Carbon Building Limited was established on 9 May 2013 under the Company Ordinance. The Company is governed by the Board of Directors consisting of one chairman and seven board members. It will provide strategic direction to the Company to achieve its vision to be an exhibition, education and information centre for zero/low carbon building design and technologies and for promoting low carbon living in Hong Kong.

The Company is expected to receive approval from the Inland Revenue Department in June 2013. This will allow individual and business donors to be exempted from tax of their charitable donations to ZCB (Section 88 of the Inland Revenue Ordinance).

## ZCB Participates at Macau International Environmental Event

Dr. LI Guiyi, Director of ZCB, was an invited speaker at the Macau International Environmental Co-operation Forum and Exhibition in Macau held on 21 – 23 March 2013. The Forum was organised by the Government of the Macau Special Administrative Region with the theme on 'Sustainable Cities – The Way Towards a Green Future'. Dr. LI introduced the concept, key features and performance of ZCB and later joined the panel discussion session on 'Green Buildings – What is Currently Driving Best Practices in Design and Efficiency'.

## Marco Polo Hotel Group Takes Inspiration from ZCB

After learning of the vision, mission and key features of ZCB, the Marco Polo Hotel Group invited Dr. LI Guiyi, Director of ZCB, to give a presentation to the annual gathering of the hotel group's managers and owners from across Asia on 18 April. The presentation was on how the concepts and technologies of ZCB could be applied to the development of new hotel buildings, retrofitting existing hotels, and to the operation of the hotel business.

## Recent Visitors

ZCB continues to attract regional and international attention. Various delegations have recently visited ZCB including:

Date of Visit	Delegation
9 April 2013	Representatives of the China Council for the Promotion of International Trade Guangzhou Committee
23 April 2013	Regional Director (East Asia) and Director of the Steering Committee of C40 Cities – Climate Leadership Group
29 April 2013	Representatives of the Qing Hai Committee of Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference
7 & 21 May 2013	Information Offices of 40 Mainland authorities led by the State Council (Hong Kong and Macau Affairs Office)

The visits not only enhance mutual understanding between CIC and the visiting parties, but also provide a good opportunity to promote ZCB as a showcase of the latest state-of-the-art eco-building design and technologies, which is one of the missions of ZCB.

## Construction Industry Training Board

### Updates on Initiatives to Enhance Training and Trade Testing

#### Latest Training Figures for ECMTS and CCTS

For the Enhanced Construction Manpower Training Scheme (ECMTS), also known as the “Build Up” Scheme, launched in September 2010, a total of 2,955 persons will be/were trained/being trained for the short courses with 1,978 having graduated by the end of April 2013.

The mandatory employment of ECMTS graduates for relevant public works contracts was promulgated by the Development Bureau in December 2012. The number of workers approved for the Contractor Cooperative Training Scheme (CCTS) was 603 with 334 persons having started or completed training. The detailed breakdown is as follows:-

The intake and number of graduates under the Build Up Scheme up to the end of April 2013 are as follows:

Trade	Intake up to 30 April 2013	Number of graduates
Bar-bending & Fixing	1,102	732
Timber & Aluminium Formwork	595	324
Metal Formwork & Concreting	100	93
Drainlaying	59	34
Site Surveying	361	231
Surveying and Setting-out	524	406
Metalwork	126	95
Tower Crane Worker's Assistant	44	30
Construction Scaffolding Works	44	33
Total	2,955	1,978

The intake and number of graduates under the CCTS up to the end of April 2013 are as follows:

Trade	Intake up to 30 April 2013	Number of graduates
Bar-bending & Fixing	104	46
Timber Formwork	68	54
Surveying and Setting-out	46	36
Crawler Crane Operation	40	30
Ground Investigation Operator Assistant	24	14
Welding	16	9
Site Surveying	19	11
Tunnel Works	12	10
Concreting	5	0
Total	334	210

Amongst the trainees, about 79.4% are between the ages of 20 and 44.



## New Building Supervision Courses

New 15-month certificate courses in Building Construction Supervision (ZBD) and Building Services Supervision (ZBS) have been drawn up and were considered by the CITB in March 2013. Spatial and manpower resources are being pooled together to prepare for the launch of these two certificate courses.

## Free Trade Tests to Return

To encourage registered general workers to take intermediate trade tests or trade tests, another round of free trade tests is being planned and will be re-introduced in the second half of 2013.

## Launch of New Subsidy Schemes to Boost CIC's Training Capacity

### Subcontractor Cooperative Training Scheme (SCTS) including Plumbing Subcontractor Cooperative Training Scheme (PCTS)

This Scheme launched in May aims at encouraging subcontractors to "hire and train" through the provision of an enhanced trainee subsidy and adoption of an extended training period of six months. A total of nine trades, namely bar-bending, bricklaying, tiles laying, plastering, tower crane, painter, timber formwork, marble and plumbing, will be covered by the Scheme.

Under the Scheme, a mixed mode of training will be used, in which the initial training to be provided by CIC or an outsourced training institute for 25 to 50 days will be followed by onsite training by subcontractors for another 100 to 125 days. Trainees will receive \$8,000 per month during the initial training period (including a monthly basic training allowance of \$6,000 and \$2,000 to be paid after successful completion of training).

On top of that another \$4,000 per month will be given by the Hong Kong Construction Subcontractors Association while receiving onsite training, taking the monthly income to \$12,000. Trainees have to take immediate trade tests upon course completion. The CIC will subsidise contractors the costs to be incurred by deploying designated trainer(s) and related administrative fees.

In early May, a total of five applications were approved to train 165 persons employed by subcontractors of trades in marble, formwork, painting, bar-bending and bricklaying, plastering and tiling.

### Contractor Cooperative Training Scheme for E&M Trades

This is another new training scheme launched in May to encourage more people to join the E&M trades, which are facing acute manpower shortage, by providing a daily training allowance of \$150.

Eight E&M trades will be covered by the Scheme: electrical fitter, electrical wireman, fire service electrical fitter, fire service mechanical fitter, lift mechanic and escalator mechanic, air-conditioning mechanic (air system), air-conditioning mechanic (thermal insulation), and air-conditioning mechanic (water system).



As with the current CCTS, E&M subcontractors can recruit and train suitable workers under the supervision of main contractor for six months. A certificate will be jointly issued by the CIC and the Hong Kong Federation of Electrical and Mechanical Contractors to graduates upon passing the examination after completing the training.

### On-the-job Training Subsidy for Employers of ECMTS/CCTS/SCTS Graduates

This new subsidy Scheme is an initiative to encourage employers to provide on-the-job training and to foster longer employer-employee relationships through the provision of a subsidy to participating employers of ECMTS/CCTS/SCTS graduates.

Seventeen trades will be covered by the Scheme and the amount of subsidy to be received depends on the daily wages for various trades. The employer has to employ and provide on-the-job training to the graduates for six months and will receive half of the subsidy.

The remaining half will be given out if the employer continues to employ the graduates for no less than 12 months. The subsidy scheme will be open for applications soon.

### Training Allowance Offer for First Year VTC E&M Students

In order to encourage E&M students of the Diploma in Vocational Education (DVE) Programme offered by the Vocational Training Council to join the industry after one of year training, a monthly training allowance of \$2,800 will be given to students for a total of 11 months.

During the training period, students will only receive half of the allowance while the remaining half will be given out after the students take up full-time employment for no less than six months. Students to be admitted this coming September will be eligible to apply.

#### CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY COUNCIL

#### 建造業議會

15/F, Allied Kajima Building, 138 Gloucester Road, Wanchai, Hong Kong

香港灣仔告士打道138號聯合鹿島大廈15樓

Tel 電話: (852) 2100 9000

Fax 傳真: (852) 2100 9090

