



CONSTRUCTION
INDUSTRY COUNCIL
建造業議會



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CIC SNAPSHOTS

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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. The CIC has begun publishing quarterly newsletters to report on the CIC and the industry's latest developments. But we are not complacent with our achievements. 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

Safety is of paramount importance to the construction industry. As an organisation highly devoted to improving construction safety, the CIC co-organised the Construction Safety Week with the Development Bureau and the Hong Kong Construction Association in May 2012. The five-day activity drew the enthusiastic support of over 20 organisations, including government departments, employers, professionals, contractors, subcontractors and union representatives. The key message announced throughout the Safety Week was the promotion of a "Zero Accident" working environment. The Construction Safety Week generated a very positive response from both the industry and the general public. Further to the publication of the "Guidelines on Handling Construction Work Injury and Fatal Accident Cases" and "Guidelines on Safety of Lift Shaft Works (Volume 2 – During Lift Installation Stage until Issue of Occupation Permit and Handing over to Developer)", the CIC organised two seminars to introduce the Guidelines to industry stakeholders in the first quarter of 2012. Both seminars were successfully conducted with an overwhelming response of over 200 participants. With regards to the possibility of hanging banners to promote safety precautionary measures at sites, several banners have already been hung up at Operation Building Bright (OBB) projects in March 2012. The Labour Department and the CIC will continue to push forward the promotional campaign for repair, maintenance, alteration and addition (RMAA) works.



Committee on Environment and Technology

To contribute to the sustainable development of the construction industry and the community at large, the CIC regularly reviews various aspects of research and use of innovative techniques. A Working Group on Building Information Modelling has been formed and it will soon begin work. The Research on Establishing a Hong Kong-based Carbon Labelling Framework for Construction Materials is about to complete. To promote good practices, two posters, namely 'Say "NO" to Overloading of Dump Trucks' and 'Say "YES" to Cleaner Environment by Proper Transportation of Construction Waste' have been issued. They can be downloaded from the CIC website.



Committee on Procurement

The CIC constantly reviews procurement practices and related issues that are of interest and significance to the industry. The Legislative Council has recently passed the Competition Bill. To enhance the industry's understanding of the Competition Law and its potential implications to the construction industry, the CIC plans to organise a Technical Forum on Competition Law for industry stakeholders. The drafting of Guidelines on the Selection of Consultants is also in progress.

Committee on Subcontracting

Following the publication of the Guidelines on Dispute Resolution in September 2010, the Task Force on Dispute Resolution Documentation has proposed a set of rules and procedures for the five recommended dispute resolution methods to be adopted under the proposed dispute resolution mechanism to facilitate early resolution of disputes in the construction industry. A consultation meeting was organised on 5 July 2012 to seek comments and collect views from major stakeholder groups on the draft rules and procedures of the proposed dispute resolution methods. The Task Force on Dispute Resolution Documentation will finalise a proposal in due course for submission to the Committee on Subcontracting for consideration.

In response to the findings of the Survey on Payment Practice in the Construction Industry conducted by the Development Bureau with the support of the CIC, major stakeholder groups representing employers, main contractors, specialist subcontractors and domestic subcontractors offered their points of view on the survey and attitude towards the security of payment legislation. The Task Force on Security of Payment Legislation will consolidate those views and make a recommendation to the Committee on Subcontracting on the necessity of enacting security of payment legislation.



Proposed by the Task Force on Voluntary Subcontractor Registration Scheme (VSRS) Stage 2, the present VSRS will be enhanced with some modification to the current rules and procedures. The name of the VSRS will be changed to "Subcontractor Registration Scheme" when it is launched in January 2013.

To raise the awareness of subcontractors registered under VSRS on construction safety, a letter has been issued to remind them of possible regulatory actions should they be convicted of site safety-related offenses.

ZCB

The first zero carbon building in Hong Kong developed by the CIC - the ZCB, was officially opened on 26 June 2012 and the opening ceremony was attended by the Financial Secretary and the Secretary for Development. The building will be opened to the public in early September 2012 after the Licence on Places of Public Entertainment for the ZCB is issued.



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

The Enhanced Construction Manpower Training Scheme (ECMTS), launched in September 2010, originally aimed to offer 3,000 training places to meet the growing demand of the construction industry. Now it has been increased to 6,000 training places after the injection of an additional trainee allowance funding of HK\$220 million by the Government. With effect from 1 June 2012, the monthly training allowance for the specified trades of ECMTS has been increased to \$6,000 while an incentive allowance in the sum of \$2,000 per month multiplied by the training duration in month will be given to those trainees on completing the courses and successfully passing the related intermediate trade tests. The training target will continue to be met by providing short course training supplemented by the Contractor Cooperative Training Scheme (CCTS).

By the end of June 2012, 1,626 persons were enrolled into short courses, and 971 have already graduated. By the end of 2011, the Development Bureau has made CCTS a contractual requirement in Public Works contracts exceeding HK\$200 million. The number of workers approved under CCTS was 235 with 158 persons having started training. The detailed breakdown is as follows:-

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

Trade	Intake up to 30 Jun 2012	Number of graduates
Bar-bending & Fixing	626	378
Timber & Aluminium Formwork	312	158
Metal Formwork & Concreting	73	64
Drainlayer	38	25
Site Surveying	190	73
Surveying and Setting-out	306	224
Metal Works	61	38
Tower Crane (Erecting, Dismantling, Telescoping & Climbing) Worker's Assistant	12	11
Construction Scaffolding Works	9	0
Total	1,626	971

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

Trade	Intake up to 30 Jun 2012	Number of graduates
Bar-bending & Fixing	67	24
Formwork	49	11
Leveller	32	16
Crawler Crane Operation	10	7
Total	158	58
Ground Investigation Operator Assistant	7	Recruitment of trainees is still going on and training has commenced in July 2012
Welding	12	
Site Surveying	0	

Amongst the trainees, about 78.3% of them are between the age of 20 and 44.

ii) Enhanced Construction Supervisor/Technician Training Scheme

Due to the injection of an additional funding for trainee allowance of HK\$220 million by the Government, the training target of the Enhanced Construction Supervisor/Technician Training Scheme (ECSTS) is increased to 1,000 and the daily allowance for ECSTS will be revised to \$180 per day during the initial 9-month classroom training period and an allowance of \$250 per day will be given during the subsequent 6-month on-the-job training period. This should attract more F.5 graduates to be trained as junior supervisors within a shorter period on top of the regular 2-year supervisor trainees. The Certificate Course will be introduced in October this year.

iii) Waive of course fee for skills enhancement courses

For the Skill Upgrading Course for Plumber (Intermediate Level) and Skill Upgrading Course for Plumber, offered in 2011, a total of 155 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 if a worker registers for the course during July, August and September 2012.

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

To encourage registered general workers to take intermediate trade tests/trade tests, test fees will be exempted if applications are filed between July and September 2012. Applicants are required to fork out the initial payment but will be refunded if they turn up for the time slot allotted by the CICTA to take the intermediate trade tests/trade tests. Two enquiry hotlines, 2100-9232 and 2100-9620, have been set up for the building & civil trades and E&M trades respectively.

2. Other means to increase training capacity

i) Setting up three new outdoor training grounds and searching for other suitable parcels of land

CICTA has planned to increase the current training capacity of ECMTS trades from 1,200 per year to 2,300 in the first quarter of 2013. In connection with the applications for three more outdoor training grounds at Tung Chau Street in Shamshuipo, Siu Lun Street in Tuen Mun, and Yuen Kong Public School in Yuen Long, short-term tenancy agreements for the first two parcels of land have been signed recently. The sites have been handed over to us in July 2012 and training will be provided within three months after taking possession of the sites.

Two more parcels of land in San Tin ST7 and Wong Lung Hang in Tung Chung are deemed suitable for setting up additional training grounds for conducting bar-bending and formwork courses. Applications have been submitted to the Lands Department in April 2012. Meanwhile, after the relocation of current training activities in the Shatin Training Ground to Tai Po Area 33, the vacated training ground will be used for ECMTS training purpose. The search for other suitable training grounds is still on going to provide more training places.

ii) Splitting of courses in response to industry needs

In response to the serious manpower shortage in bricklaying as brought up by industry stakeholders, the 135-day Bricklaying, Plastering and Tiling Course will be split up into two courses, i.e. a 94-day Bricklaying and Plastering Course, and a 97-day Bricklaying and Tiling Course, with effect from the 2012/13 training year. In addition, in order to centralise resources to facilitate the training of excavator operators urgently in demand, the 80-day Earth Moving Machine Operation Course will be split into two courses, i.e. a 50-day Excavator Operation Course, and a 32-day Bulldozer/Loader Operation Course.

iii) Construction Vocational Cantonese Course

In order to attract new blood from ethnic minority groups, a 60-hour Construction Vocational Cantonese Course is being offered to enable them to communicate in simple Cantonese with their colleagues on construction sites. A course fee of \$500 will be refunded upon course completion to encourage the trainees to complete the course.

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

香港灣仔告士打道中138號聯合鹿島大廈15樓

Tel 電話: (852) 2100 9000

Fax 傳真: (852) 2100 9090