



# CIC SNAPSHOTS

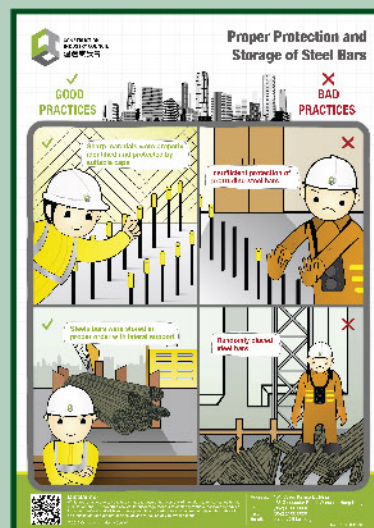
FEB 2013 ISSUE 4

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 strives 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.

## Committee on Construction Site Safety

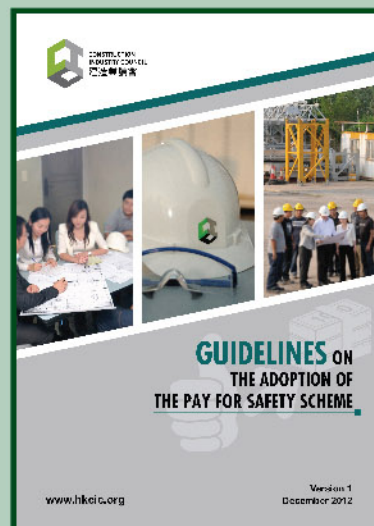
### Site Housekeeping Posters

To provide simple and clear messages to industry stakeholders on good site housekeeping practices, a Task Force on Site Housekeeping prepared two sets of posters in November 2012. The "Proper Protection and Storage of Steel Bars" poster reminds workers to handle sharp materials with care, for example, steel bars should be protected with suitable caps and stored in proper order with lateral support. The "Designated Access for Pedestrian and Vehicle on Construction Sites" poster reminds relevant practitioners to take proper measures, for example, erecting signage, road marks, and flashing lights at appropriate pedestrian crossings on construction sites.



### Guidelines on the Adoption of the Pay for Safety Scheme

A Press Briefing Session was held by the Committee on Construction Site Safety on Thursday, 13 December 2012 to introduce the newly published "Guidelines on the Adoption of the Pay for Safety Scheme" (Guidelines). The purpose of the Guidelines is to promote good practice in construction contracts for both public and private projects. It develops a fair and equitable environment for the contracting parties under a construction project to manage site safety matters. The Guidelines also encourage the parties who pay for the construction work and the main contractors to actively allocate adequate attention and resources on the provision of site safety measures.





There were three speakers in the Press Briefing Session, namely Mr. CHEUNG Hau-wai, Chairman of the Committee on Construction Site Safety; Mrs. Irene CHENG, Acting Deputy Director (Development & Construction) of the Hong Kong Housing Authority; and Ir Conrad WONG, CIC Member and Managing Director of a construction company. They shared their views on how the PFSS can serve as an incentive for public and private projects to better promote construction safety and benefits to the industry and society.



### Safety Alert – Prevention of Electrocution and Associated Technical Seminar

The CIC is concerned about several suspected electrocution accidents that have occurred within the construction industry in recent months. “Safety Alert No. 003/12 – Prevention of Electrocution” was issued on Friday, 23 November 2012, and it provides suggested safety measures for employers, contractors, electrical workers and other construction workers. A Technical Seminar on Electrical Works Safety was held on Tuesday, 18 December 2012 to disseminate this message to the frontline personnel of construction sites. The Seminar received overwhelming support from the industry with over 150 delegates showing their concern by enthusiastically registering and participating in the discussion session.



### Construction Safety Week 2013 and the Associated Activities

The Construction Industry Council (CIC), the Development Bureau (DEVB) and the Hong Kong Construction Association (HKCA) jointly organised the Construction Safety Week with the theme “Zero Accident” from 20 to 24 May 2012 to reach out to different sectors of the construction industry and the public.

The safety promotional campaign earned the support and attention from a large number of stakeholders in the construction industry. By early January 2013, approximately 31,000 individuals comprising workers, supervisors and professionals and some 530 organisations (involving contractors, subcontractors, clients, and consultants) have pledged their support for working towards the Joint Declaration launched in the Construction Safety Week 2012.

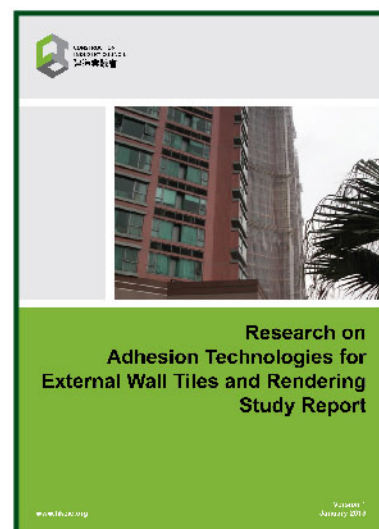
The CIC and the DEVB are now planning to launch the Construction Safety Week 2013 and the associated activities. It is anticipating the Construction Safety Week 2013 to be a key event in 2013 for promulgating site safety to stakeholders and practitioners in the construction industry. A series of promotional activities and incentive schemes will also be launched in the coming months. Stay tuned for our announcements.

## Committee on Environment and Technology

The Committee on Environment and Technology (Com-ENT) focused its efforts toward the following aspects:

- Research on Adhesion Technologies for External Wall Tiles and Rendering
- Study on Strategic Implementation of Prefabrication and Modular Construction
- Research on River Sand Substitutes for Concrete Production and Cement Sand Mortar Production
- Establishing a Hong Kong Based Carbon Labelling Framework for Construction Materials
- Review of Research Proposals from Research Institutes Seeking Funding Support from the CIC

With the recommendation of the Task Force of Research on Adhesion Technologies for External Wall Tiles and Rendering, the Study Report on Research on Adhesion Technologies for External Wall Tiles and Rendering has recently been published and is available for download from the CIC's website. A Task Force member was invited by TVB to elaborate the maintenance needs of the external wall tiles at an afternoon television programme "Pleasure and Leisure" aired in November 2012. Please visit the CIC facebook <<http://www.facebook.com/CICCHK>> to have a glance .



A draft Study Report on Strategic Implementation of Prefabrication and Modular Construction has been submitted to Com-ENT for deliberation. With the Com-ENT's comments, the draft Study Report is going to be endorsed at the next Com-ENT meeting. Members agreed that further in-depth study on key initiatives is required.

The Research on River Sand Substitutes for Concrete Production and Cement Sand Mortar Production (Phase One) is about to be completed. The draft Study Report will be submitted to Com-ENT for endorsement at its next meeting.

The research on Establishing a Hong Kong Based Carbon Labelling Framework for Construction Materials has been completed and endorsed by the Com-ENT. The strategy for the implementation of this Carbon Labelling Framework will be discussed at the next Com-ENT meeting.

The Com-ENT assigned a review group composed of some of the members from the committee to evaluate 52 research proposals submitted by different research institutes, aiming to provide funding support to some of the research projects. The review group will make the recommendations to the Com-ENT for endorsement.



## Committee on Procurement

A Task Force on Employer-Procured Insurance Policies in Construction Contracts has recently been formed to review the applicability of employer-procured insurance policies in construction contracts in Hong Kong. The Task Force comprises Members from different organisations, including the Hong Kong Confederation of Insurance Brokers, the Hong Kong Construction Association, the Hong Kong Federation of Electrical and Mechanical Contractors, the Hong Kong Federation of Insurers, as well as client bodies and government departments. As the first step, the Task Force will explore the benefits and other relevant factors of promoting employer-procured insurance policies in construction contracts, and the relevant local and overseas experience.

Following the enactment of the Competition Ordinance last year, the Chairman and a Member of the Task Force on Competition Law prepared a paper entitled "Hong Kong's New Competition Law: An Introduction" which provides an overview of the Competition Ordinance and its potential implication for the construction industry. The paper gives brief account of the two Conduct Rules<sup>1</sup>, which potentially apply to businesses in the construction industry, as follows:

- The First Conduct Rule aims to prohibit collusive agreements and understandings between competitors. This could apply, for example, if rival contractors agree to rig their bids in a tender process or to discuss at a trade association meeting the prices they intend to charge. A distinction is also made in the Ordinance between "serious anti-competitive conduct" (for example, price fixing, market allocation, output control, and bid rigging) and other (less serious) anti-competitive conduct.
- The Second Conduct Rule prohibits abuse of a "substantial degree of market power" with the object of lessening competition in a market. This could apply, for example, if the monopoly supplier of a material decided to delay deliveries of its product to a particular customer who has recently entered the industry, and supply it with an inferior quality product (while charging it the same prices), in the expectation that this will force it to leave the industry. The expression "substantial degree of market power" is not defined in the Ordinance and the new Competition Commission will be obliged at an early stage to prepare guidelines on market definition and assessment of market power.

The paper also outlines the various exemptions and exclusion provisions in the Ordinance and discusses the roles of the Competition Commission and Competition Tribunal in terms of Investigation, Warning and Prosecutions and Penalties and Compensation. It also outlines a few measures to ensure compliance with the Ordinance. The paper has been circulated to the Council for information and will be further edited for publication at the CIC Newsletter and website.

The drafting of a Frequently Asked Questions publication on NEC3 Collaborative Contract is in progress. The publication has a particular focus on sharing knowledge and experience on the practical application of NEC3 in Hong Kong and aims to enhance industry stakeholders' understanding on the use of NEC3 as a form of collaborative contracts. As of January 2013, the Task Group on NEC3 Collaborative Contract has gathered over 30 frequently asked questions and has been working on drafting answers to those questions.



<sup>1</sup> There is also a Merger Rule in the Ordinance which applies only to mergers and acquisitions that involve a telecommunications carrier licensee.



## Committee on Subcontracting

Stage 2 of the Voluntary Subcontractor Registration Scheme took effect on Tuesday, 1 January 2013 and was renamed “Subcontractor Registration Scheme” (SRS). Over the last quarter, the CIC completed a series of promotional activities as follows:



1. Dedicated column in the “CIC Newsletter” & the “CIC Snapshots”
2. Sending e-mail broadcast / notices to existing registered subcontractors
3. Sending dedicated notices to SRS supporting organisations and other major industry stakeholders
4. 4 sessions of briefing sessions organised at the SRS Registration Office
5. 2 rounds of Town Hall Briefing Sessions organised at the Construction Industry Resource Centre
6. Dedicated briefing sessions with major industry stakeholders
7. Newspaper byline article published on Monday, 10 December 2012
8. New promotional leaflets for SRS
9. Dedicated hotline(s) for enquiry
10. Launching the new SRS website

A new series of briefing sessions to be conducted within the first quarter of 2013 has been opened for applications. For more details, please refer to the website of “Subcontractor Registration Scheme”: <http://www.hkcic.org/srs>.

## ZCB

On Monday, 17 December 2012, a Media Briefing was held at the ZCB to announce its public opening. Mr. LEE Shing-see, Chairman of the CIC; Mr. YU Wai-wai, Chairman of the ZCB; Ms. Salenda LAU, Member of Board of Directors of the ZCB; Mr. Christopher TO, Executive Director of the CIC; and Dr. LI Gui-yi, Director - ZCB, attended the event. The Media Briefing was well received by the press, and attracted a total of 38 media coverage from print, online and electronic media outlets.



After the official opening for public on Saturday, 5 January 2013, visits to ZCB are conducted in the form of guided tours. There are three guided tour sessions a day (respectively at 10am, 2pm and 4pm), each accommodating a maximum of 50 visitors. Ticket prices for the guided tours are HK\$20 for adults and HK\$10 for students. Concessionary tickets are offered at HK\$5 to senior citizens aged 60 or above and to the disabled.

Pre-booking is required and can be made online at <http://zcb.hkcic.org>, between 5 days and 30 days prior to the scheduled visits for individual visitors, and 7 days to 6 months prior to the scheduled visits for group visitors. The outdoor landscape area is open for free from 7am to 8pm everyday.

The ZCB is also rolling out a ZCB Ambassador Scheme targeting students and relevant professional communities. We are honoured to have Mr. Paul CHAN, Secretary for Development, as the Commander of the ZCB Ambassadors. ZCB Ambassadors, after taking the necessary training, will help conduct guided ZCB tours and disseminate ZCB messages to the community which strives to raise the community's awareness of low carbon living.



To celebrate the festive season, ZCB held the Christmas Open Day and welcomed the public to visit the building for free, join family workshops and enjoy special performances. The event aimed to provide the community with an opportunity to preview and experience the state-of-the-art eco-building's design and low carbon living. Details are shown as follows:

Christmas Open Day	Activity		Number of Visitors
22 December 2012	Indoor Visit	ZCB Indoor Exhibition Area (Sessions: 11am – 1pm; 3pm – 5pm)	1,111 visitors
	Christmas Performance	1. Christmas Carol Singing Performance 2. Saxophone Performance 3. Dancing Performance	2,581 visitors (Outdoor area)
	Family Workshop	1. Postcard Workshop 2. Eco-bag Workshop 3. Recycled Soap Workshop 4. Recycled Paper Workshop	
23 December 2012	Indoor Visit	ZCB Indoor Exhibition Area (Sessions: 11am – 1pm; 3pm – 5pm)	1,389 visitors
	Christmas Performance	1. Christmas Carol Singing Performance 2. Saxophone Performance 3. Orchestra Performance	3,205 visitors (Outdoor area)
	Family Workshop	1. Postcard Workshop 2. Eco-bag Workshop 3. Recycled Paper Workshop	
25 December 2012	Indoor Visit	ZCB Indoor Exhibition Area (Sessions: 11am – 1pm; 3pm – 5pm)	1,561 visitors
26 December 2012	Indoor Visit	ZCB Indoor Exhibition Area (Sessions: 11am – 1pm; 3pm – 5pm)	1,553 visitors
29 December 2012	Indoor Visit	ZCB Indoor Exhibition Area (Sessions: 11am – 1pm; 3pm – 5pm)	818 visitors
30 December 2012	Indoor Visit	ZCB Indoor Exhibition Area (Sessions: 11am – 1pm; 3pm – 5pm)	1,471 visitors
Total number of visitors (indoor visit):			7,903 visitors
Total number of visitors (outdoor area of the ZCB):			5,786 visitors



## Construction Industry Training Board / Committee on Manpower Training and Development

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

#### 1) 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 2,333 persons will be / were trained / being trained for the short courses with 1,584 having graduated by the end of 2012. The mandatory employment of ECMTS graduates for relevant public works contracts was just recently promulgated by the Development Bureau in December 2012. Whereas, the number of workers approved for CCTS was 433 with 293 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 2012 are tabulated as follows:

Trade	Intake up to 31 Dec 2012	Number of graduates
Bar-bending & Fixing	891	607
Timber & Aluminium Formwork	417	264
Metal Formwork & Concreting	85	79
Drainlayer	45	29
Site Surveying	280	163
Surveying and Setting-out	445	335
Metal Works	99	65
Tower Crane (Erecting, Dismantling, Telescoping & Climbing) Worker's Assistant	35	22
Construction Scaffolding Works	36	20
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,333</b>	<b>1,584</b>

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

Trade	Intake up to 31 Dec 2012	Number of graduates
Bar-bending & Fixing	96	35
Formwork	68	37
Leveller	44	30
Crawler Crane Operation	30	20
Ground Investigation Operator Assistant	16	7
Welding	12	9
Site Surveying	15	11
Tunnel Worker	12	12
<b>Total</b>	<b>293</b>	<b>161</b>

Amongst the trainees, about 81% of them are between the age of 20 and 44.

## 2) 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 with the target of training 500 in 2013 and 2014 each year. The first two classes providing 80 training places in total commenced in October and December 2012 respectively. A total of 84 persons were enrolled. In order to offer more classes, other means like outsourcing and cooperative training schemes are being explored. Whereas, the provision of certificate courses in building construction supervision and building services; engineering supervision are being studied to address the manpower shortage.

## 3) Outsourcing of Skills Enhancement Courses

The provision of training for five new skills enhancement courses on Carpenter (Formwork-Civil Construction), Floor Layer (Timber Flooring), Bamboo Scaffolder, Metal Scaffolder, and General Welder has been outsourced to increase the training capacity.

## Other Efforts to Boost Training Capacity

### 1) New Outdoor Training Grounds and Searching for Other Suitable Parcels of Land

The current status of applications for a number of outdoor training grounds to increase the current training capacity of ECMTS 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) Wong Lung Hang in Tung Chung	}	Taken over in January 2013 and tentatively classes will be offered in coming April.
v) San Tin ST7 in Yuen Long	}	Using it as a training ground is being re-considered because Section 16 for changing land use application had been considered and found to be impracticable due to the small use of the land and that it involves a 'Wetland Restoration Area'. Two other new pieces of land in Sheung Shui and Kwai Chung are being considered.

In addition, the tenancy agreement of Tai Po Area 33 was signed in late October 2012. Construction started on 11 January 2013 for completion in mid-June 2013. The land will be used to house the training activities currently conducted in Shatin Training Ground. Once all these new training grounds are rolled out, the CIC will be able to meet the target of 6,000 graduates by October 2014.



## 2) New Subsidy for Instructors under Contractor Cooperative Training Scheme and Proposal for Contractor (Concreting) Cooperative Training Scheme (CCTS)

The proposal to fully subsidise the monitoring fee borne by contractors under the above Scheme has been accepted by the CITB. The new subsidy is applicable to applications submitted after the approval of the proposal in November 2012.

In addition, CITB also approved the splitting of a 23-day concreting training course from the existing Metal Framework and Concreting course under the ECMTS for the use of CCTS. Applications are invited to train concreters for the industry.

## Other Activities

### 1) Naming of CIC Training Establishments

With effect from 1 January 2013, the "Construction Industry Council" will be used on all occasions and the name of "Construction Industry Council Training Academy" will no longer be used. In addition, names of our training centres and training grounds will be preceded by the name of "Construction Industry Council" from then onwards.

### 2) Apprenticeship Subsidy Scheme

Applications for the Apprenticeship Subsidy Scheme (Trial), which was recently accepted as a regular subsidy scheme, closed on 31 September 2012. A total of 257 applications were received, indicating a positive response to the endeavour to enable graduates to stay in the construction industry.



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

