



CIC SNAPSHOTS

APR 2013 ISSUE 5

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

Guidelines and Safety Alerts Under Preparation

With the contributions from members of the Task Group on Implementation of Heat Stress Action Plan under the Task Force on Working in Hot Weather, the draft "Guidelines on Site Safety Measures for Working in Hot Weather" was completed and endorsed by the Committee on Construction Site Safety (Com-CSS). The purpose of the Guidelines is to provide guidance to the construction industry on measures to protect construction workers working in hot weather. The draft will be submitted to the Council for approval at its next meeting.

With the concerted effort of the members of the Task Force on Site Safety of Working in Lift Shaft and its Task Group, the preparation of the "Guidelines on Safety of Lift Shaft Works (Volume 3 – Throughout Occupation Stage)" is in good progress. The guidelines will cover the relevant safety measures in a walk-through risk assessment approach to protect the safety and health of workers and other parties engaged in the lift repair and maintenance works.

The Task Force on Review of Major Construction Method Statements completed drafting the "Guidelines on Fabrication of Reinforcement Cages of Bored Piles". The intention of the guidelines is to encourage the incorporation of safe working procedures into the Construction Method Statements of various construction projects, enhancing the safety of workers and site safety performance. The document will be submitted to the Council for approval at its next meeting.

With the support from the members of the Task Force on Work Safety of Repair, Maintenance, Alterations and Additions (RMAA) Sites, a "Safety Alert No. 001/13 – Safe Use of Mobile Metal Scaffolds for Repair, Maintenance, Alteration and Addition Works" was drafted. The aim of the Safety Alert is to enhance site safety for RMAA works. The draft Safety Alert was endorsed by the Com-CSS and will be published after submitting to the Council for approval at its next meeting.

Construction Safety Week 2013 and Associated Activities

To continue promoting and reinforcing the “Zero Accident” message to the stakeholders in the construction industry, the Construction Industry Council (CIC) and the Development Bureau (DEVB) will co-organise the Construction Safety Week 2013 (27 – 31 May 2013) and the associated activities. The Hong Kong Construction Association (HKCA) is invited as an associating organisation of the Construction Safety Week 2013.

“Zero Accident” is the main theme of the campaign. Various key messages are developed for enhancing the promotion of “Zero Accident” to the stakeholders:-

- Caring Environment – The construction industry has been making sustained efforts to create an “accident free” and “caring environment” to construction workers;
- Pro-active Organisation – Organisations should nurture a pro-active safety culture through active and visible commitment as well as leadership by their management staff;
- Responsible Individuals – Individuals should be responsible for themselves and their family and care about others’ safety on construction sites;
- Recognition – Good safety performers (including organisations and individuals) would be given due recognition; and
- Achievable – “Zero Accident” is an achievable goal that can be done through the joint efforts of all stakeholders.

The Campaign consists of three phrases:-

- Pre-Construction Safety Week 2013 Promotion;
- Construction Safety Week 2013; and
- Follow-up actions and post event activities.

Pre-Construction Safety Week 2013 include safety promotional video, safety pal, zero accident ambassador award and innovative safety initiatives award.

Tentative programme of the Construction Safety Week 2013:-

	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4
May 2013	27 (Mon)	28 (Tue)	29 (Wed)	31 (Fri)
	Zero Accident Declaration Ceremony	Construction Safety Week Conference	Construction Safety Week Site Visit	Construction Safety Week CCSAS 2012 Award Presentation Ceremony

Participation and commitment from stakeholders are the critical factors in achieving “Zero Accident” and leading to the success of the Campaign.

Committee on Environment and Technology

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

- Research on River Sand Substitutes for Concrete Production and Cement Sand Mortar Production
- Study on Strategic Implementation of Prefabrication and Modular Construction
- Review of Research Proposals from Research Institutes Seeking Funding Support from the CIC

The Study Report of Research on River Sand Substitutes for Concrete Production and Cement Sand Mortar Production (Phase One) has been accepted by the Com-ENT and the Council. The report will be published on the CIC website for download in April 2013.

The report recommends that “manufactured sand” is the most viable substitute to river sand in respect of its reasonable production cost, packing density and workability. It is also suitable for the production of high-performance concrete. The report also recommends the following tasks in the Phase Two study:

• Task 1:	Develop Construction Standard for Aggregates for Mortar
• Task 2:	Research on Effects of Fines Content on Concrete
• Task 3:	Specifications and Classification of Manufactured Sand
• Task 4:	Research on Crushed Waste Glass as Aggregate for Mortar
• Task 5:	Research on Recycled Aggregate as Aggregate for Mortar

The CIC will proceed with the Phase Two study soon.

The Study Report on Strategic Implementation of Prefabrication and Modular Construction has also been accepted by the CIC. With the recommendation made in the report, further in-depth study on the following key initiatives would be required:

- Manpower – any manpower saving, impact on existing labour market, and effectiveness of attracting new blood to join the industry;
- Local Yard – study on the requirements of establishing a prefabrication yard in Hong Kong and its competitiveness over the same in the Mainland;
- Type – opportunities to widen the scope of adoption in other types of building components and their alternative technical solutions on vertical positioning such as less reliance on tower crane;
- Scope – opportunities to adopt precast construction of structural building elements.

The CIC is now considering the next phase of studies on those issues.

The CIC has endorsed the provision of research funding to the following six research projects submitted by various research institutes:

- Formulation of sustainable trigeneration system design for high-rise commercial buildings in Hong Kong;
- Development of high modulus concrete for tall buildings;
- Development of an automatic image collection and analysis system for improving onsite construction productivity;
- Innovative design technique for steel-concrete composite structures in Hong Kong;
- Adopting Eurocodes by Hong Kong construction industry technical guide on effective design and construction to European Steel Code; and
- S-Helmet – a proactive construction safety management system based on real-time localization.



Committee on Procurement

To assist industry stakeholders to understand the broad aims and principles of the Competition Law and to prepare for the new law, an article entitled "Hong Kong's New Competition Law: An Introduction" will be published in the CIC Newsletter for stakeholders' reference. A "Competition Law cum Security of Payment Forum" will be held on 3 May 2013 with the morning session focusing on giving an introduction to stakeholders on the Competition Ordinance as well as highlighting some of its potential implications and the practical steps to be taken for the construction industry. The Forum will provide an ideal platform for local and overseas experts to share experience and exchange views on the Competition Law with the delegates.



The Task Force on Employer-Procured Insurance Policies in Construction Contracts held its first meeting in January 2013. The objective of the Task Force is to review the applicability of Employer-Procured Insurance Policies, also known as owner-controlled insurance programme, for construction contracts in Hong Kong. In the meeting, a representative of the Development Bureau introduced the Environment, Transport and Works Bureau Technical Circular (Works) No. 7/2005 – Procurement of Construction Related Insurance which set out the guidelines on the method of procurement of construction related insurance for public works construction contracts. MTR Corporation Limited (MTR)'s project insurance approach and the coverage of its employer-procured insurance policies including Contractor/Construction All Risks, Third Party Liability and Employees' Compensation Insurance were also discussed. Past and current MTR projects that adopted employer-procured insurance policies included the Tseung Kwan O Extension, Airport Railway, West Rail, West Island Line, Express Rail Link, South Island Line (East), Kwun Tong Line Extension and Shatin to Central Link. Other projects in Hong Kong that adopted employer-procured insurance policies included the Airport Core Programme, Cathay Pacific Cargo Terminal as well as government projects such as the Route 8 Highway and Stonecutters Bridge. The Task Force will continue to share experience and exchange views on the application of Employer-Procured Insurance Policies in Hong Kong and overseas and deliberate on its practical benefits and limitations in its upcoming meetings.

The drafting of a frequently asked questions (FAQ) publication on the NEC3 Collaborative Contract is in progress. A number of Task Force and Task Group meetings have been held to discuss details of the FAQs including drafting of answers to the questions gathered on the practical application of NEC3 as a form of collaborative contract in Hong Kong.

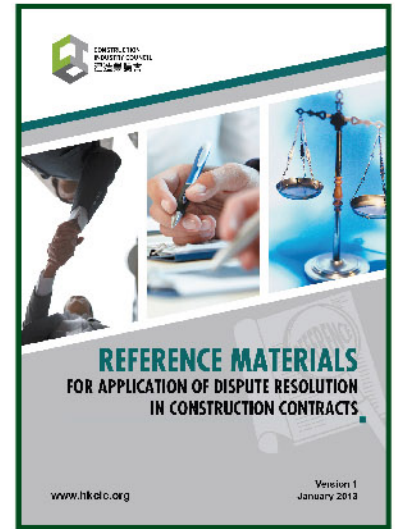


Committee on Subcontracting

New Publication

The "Reference Materials for Application of Dispute Resolution in Construction Contracts" (published in January 2013) is now available for download from the CIC website. The Reference Materials summarise the discussions and recommendations of the Task Force on Dispute Resolution Documentation (the Task Force) and set out the rules and procedures for various types of dispute resolution methods as well as sample contract clauses to facilitate the incorporation into construction contracts of the following alternative dispute resolution methods recommended in the "Guidelines on Dispute Resolution" published by the CIC in 2010:

- Mediation
- Adjudication
- Independent Expert Certifier Review
- Expert Determination
- Short Form Arbitration



Subsequent to the publication of the Reference Materials, a working group will be set up to review the implementation and revise or fine-tune where appropriate and necessary the rules and procedures of the dispute resolution mechanisms proposed in the Reference Materials to ensure its seamless implementation.

According to current practice within the construction industry, Dispute Resolution Advisor (DRA) is used in main contract and nominated subcontract only. The use of DRA was also recommended in the "Guidelines on Dispute Resolution" (published in September 2010) to resolve arguments arising between parties in the first instance. At the consultation meeting organised by the Task Force in July 2012, some participants strongly recommended to promote the adoption of dispute avoidance measure through the use of DRA in domestic subcontract (i.e. between main contractor and domestic subcontractors) with a view to assisting the parties in resolving disagreements, which, if unresolved, would turn into formal disputes. Owing to some practical difficulties in adopting DRA system at all subcontract levels, the Task Force suggested that this issue would require further consideration in the next stage. Hence, a new task force will be established to deliberate and review the feasibility of introducing the DRA system in the subcontract level, including specialist subcontractors, domestic subcontractors as well as lower-tier subcontractors.

To protect workers' payment rights, the specimen employment contract has been revised to specify where appropriate other incomes to be received by workers on top of or in lieu of the basic wages. The revised version is now available for download from the CIC website for reference.

Subcontractor Registration Scheme

Stage two of the Voluntary Subcontractor Registration Scheme took effect on 1 January 2013 and was renamed "Subcontractor Registration Scheme (SRS)". To help stakeholders become familiar with those new initiatives implemented under the SRS which mainly aim to enhance the integrity of Registered Subcontractor and facilitate new entrants to the subcontractor industry and refine operational details where appropriate for improving the scheme, a new series of briefing sessions was conducted between January and March 2013.

Construction Workers Registration Board

Scholarships for Family Members of Registered Construction Workers

Launched in 2011, the then Construction Workers Registration Authority Scholarship has achieved excellent results. All awardees had attained good grades in public examinations and were admitted to various universities and tertiary institutions.

Following the success in the past two years, the event will be staged again this year but with a new name, "Scholarships for the Family Members of Registered Construction Workers". As its name suggests, the scholarship is set up for children, siblings and those under the guardianship of registered construction workers in Hong Kong. Applicants must be Hong Kong residents and candidates of the 2013 Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education (HKDSE), and the results they attained in the examination will be the selection criterion for the ten scholarships that are going to be awarded this year:

Categories	No. of Awardees	Amount of Scholarship (HKD)
Scholarship 1	1	\$30,000
Scholarship 2	1	\$20,000
Scholarship 3	1	\$10,000
Award of Excellence	3	\$8,000
Award of Merits	4	\$4,000

2013年度註冊建造業工人家屬獎學金
Scholarships for the Family Members of Registered Construction Workers 2013

「註冊建造業工人家屬獎學金」旨在獎勵香港建造業工人之子女、兄弟姊妹或受其監護之青少年或兄弟姊妹在香港公開考試中取得良好成績，並表揚其對社會之貢獻，鼓勵其繼續努力，成為社會之棟樑。

申請資格：
 1. 申請人須為2013年香港中學文憑考試 (HKDSE) 考生。
 2. 申請人須為香港居民。
 3. 申請人須為註冊建造業工人之子女、兄弟姊妹或受其監護之青少年或兄弟姊妹。

申請辦法：
 申請人須填妥申請表，並附上相關證明文件，交回各區建造業工人家屬獎學金辦事處。

截止日期：
 2013年8月19日

查詢：
 2871 5538 / 2871 5518

Awardees who are admitted to construction-related departments of universities or tertiary institutions will get an extra scholarship of \$5,000.

Application forms and details of the scholarship will be available at Workers Registration Secretariat, Workers Registration Offices, major construction trade unions and local secondary schools. Deadline for application is 19 August 2013.

Construction Workers Registration Board Established

Upon amalgamation of the Construction Workers Registration Authority (CWRA) and the Construction Industry Council (CIC) on 1 January 2013, the Construction Workers Registration Board (CWRB) was set up to take over the work of the then CWRA, which includes setting the qualification requirements for registration or renewal of registration, acting on and discharging tasks in regard to the Construction Workers Registration Ordinance, as well as performing and exercising such other functions or powers as are imposed on it by CIC.

CWRB is chaired by Mr. CHONG Kin-lit, Paul, who was also a CWRA member from 2010 to 2012. There are 18 members from the construction industry and other construction-related sectors. They are Mr. CHAN Chi-hin, Ir Geoffrey CHAN, Mr. CHOW Luen-kiu, Ir CHUI Wai-sing, Mr. Ivan FU, Dr. Paul HO, Mr. HO Wai-wah, Dr. KUANG Jun-Shang, Ir Helen KWAN, Ir Enoch LAM, Ir Joseph LEE, Ir LEUNG Siu-man, Mr. LI Chi-leung, Mr. Lawrence NG, Mr. PANG Long, Mr. Rex WONG, Ir Ringo YU, and Mr. YU Wai-wai.

Overseas Delegations Visit ZCB

ZCB continues to attract overseas delegations. Recently, the following overseas delegations have visited ZCB:

Date of Visit	Delegation
6 March 2013	Barcelona Regional Urban Development Agency
8 March 2013	Bouygues Group, a French conglomerate
12 March 2013	U.S. Green Building Council
18 March 2013	Guangdong Maritime Safety Administration of the People's Republic of China
19 March 2013	Mainland officials from the Foreign Affairs Offices of various provinces and municipalities

ZCB's growing attraction to overseas visitors will help strengthening CIC's regional and international co-operations.

Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors Hong Kong Awards 2013

CIC's signature project, ZCB, was the Grand Award Winner of the "Innovation Award of the Year" of the RICS Hong Kong Awards 2013. Mr. LEE Shing-see, Chairman of the CIC; Mr. YU Wai-wai, Chairman of the ZCB, CIC; Mr. Christopher TO, Executive Director of the CIC; and Dr. LI Gui-yi, Director – ZCB, CIC, attended the RICS Hong Kong Annual Dinner cum Award Presentation Ceremony on 14 March 2013 to receive the award.



Easter Family Fun Weekend at ZCB

The Easter Family Fun Weekend hosted by ZCB on 30 and 31 March 2013 offered opportunities for members of the public of all ages to have fun while learning about green life styles. Exciting and inspiring activities featured at the event included balloon twisting, recycled soap making workshop and colouring zones where visitors could show their support of low-carbon living. The highlight of the event was Easter egg hunting which required participants to explore ZCB and the urban native woodland in search of clues and to discover cunningly hidden eggs that contained clues and secrets of eco-technologies and natural conservation. Participants could redeem prizes by answering questions correctly. Eco-friendly cars were displayed at the event to arouse public awareness of green driving. Visitors took home a large array of low-carbon living information and lasting memories.



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 2,668 persons will be / have been trained / are being trained for the short courses with 1,773 having graduated by end of February 2013. The mandatory employment of ECMTS graduates for relevant public works contracts was promulgated by the Development Bureau in December 2012. Whereas, the number of workers approved for CCTS was 433 with 294 persons having started / completed training. Detailed breakdown is as follows:-

Intakes and number of graduates under the Build Up Scheme up to end of February 2013 as follows:

Trade	Intake up to 28 Feb 2012	Number of graduates
Bar-bending & Fixing	1,023	682
Timber & Aluminium Formwork	535	324
Metal Formwork & Concreting	100	79
Drainlaying	45	29
Site Surveying	299	182
Surveying and Setting-out	484	351
Metal Works	111	76
Tower Crane Worker's Assistant	35	30
Construction Scaffolding Works	36	30
Total	2,668	1,773

Intakes and number of graduates under the CCTS up to end of February 2013 as follows:

Trade	Intake up to 28 Feb 2012	Number of graduates
Bar-bending & Fixing	96	46
Timber Formwork	68	53
Surveying and Setting-out	45	32
Crawler Crane Operation	30	25
Ground Investigation Operator Assistant	16	14
Welding	12	9
Site Surveying	15	11
Tunnel Worker	12	10
Total	294	200

Amongst the trainees, about 79.8% of them are between the age of 20 and 44.

2) Enhanced Construction Supervisor Training Scheme (ECSTS)

The first two classes of the new 15-month Certificate in Civil Engineering Supervision Course under the above ECSTS were commenced in late 2012 with 73 persons still undertaking training. More classes in 2013 are being scheduled. Provision of certificate courses in building construction supervision and building services engineering supervision are being studied.

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 will soon be outsourced once evaluation of tenders received is completed.

Boosting CIC's In-house Training Capacity

1) New Outdoor Training Grounds and Projected Training Capacity

As reported over a year ago, CIC had applied for five parcels of land for building training grounds. The last two, and by far the biggest will be rolled out by July this year, boosting ECSTS training capacity to 2,500 a year. This together with regular training capacity of 2,000, CIC in-house training capacity will reach 4,600 a year.

2) Aligning Conditions / Requirements of Voluntary and Mandatory Contractor Cooperative Training Schemes (CCTS)

It has been endorsed at the CITB meeting on 19 February 2013 to align the conditions / requirements of the Voluntary and Mandatory CCTSs. From then onwards, the calculation of trainee allowance and the qualification requirements of instructing staff of contractors / sub-contractors would be the same for both schemes. In addition, the minimum passing rate of trainees for the Voluntary CCTS will be lowered from the original 90% to 80% but the percentage is still a bit higher than the 75% as stipulated in the Mandatory CCTS. The CCTS training capacity is projected to be about 1,400 in 2013.

3) Subsidy Schemes Considered

Over the last six months, liaison was made with main tunnel contractors, HKFEMC, HKCSA and other stakeholders to optimise CCTS. A number of subsidy schemes including an on-the-job subsidy scheme to subsidise the employers of graduates of ECSTS courses, Sub-contractor Cooperative Training Scheme (SCTS), Contractor Cooperative Training Scheme (CCTS) for Electrical and Mechanical Trades, and the provision of subsidy to first year trainees of DVE courses offered by the Vocational Training Council are being considered by the CIC. These schemes would be launched hopefully in May this year to train and retain more graduates in the construction industry to help address the serious manpower shortage facing the construction industry. Stakeholders of these schemes had projected a training capacity of 2,900.

4) New Training Course on Curtain Wall and Aluminum Window Installations

To meet the demand for curtain wall installers, a 107-day short course on curtain wall and aluminum window installations was recently approved by CITB. It is planned that CIC will train up a total of 60 people in 2013 while CCTS and outsourcing the course are to be pursued to further boost the training capacity.



5) Approval of a Number of Cooperation Proposals / Frameworks under Contractor Cooperative Training Scheme (CCTS) and Sub-contractor Cooperative Training Scheme (SCTS)

A number of cooperation proposals / frameworks for various trades under the CCTS or SCTS are recently approved by CITB as below:

- a. CCTS for Drainlaying
- b. CCTS for E&M (Air-conditioning – cold water and drainage system, Air-conditioning – air system, Air-conditioning – thermal insulation)
- c. CCTS for E&M (Escalator installation and maintenance, Lift installation and maintenance)
- d. SCTS for Bar-bending and fixing
- e. SCTS for Timber Formwork
- f. SCTS for Painting
- g. SCTS for Bricklaying, plastering and tiling
- h. SCTS for Marble installation and polishing
- i. SCTS for Erecting and dismantling of tower crane

Applications from contractors and sub-contractors are welcome to join the above cooperative training schemes.

6) Enhancement of Construction Industry Resource Centre to Include a Recruitment Centre

To cater for substantial increase in training capacity, part of the Construction Industry Resource Centre will be enhanced to become a Recruitment Centre to facilitate recruitment of workers to the industry.

CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY COUNCIL

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