



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Construction Industry Council Administrators
Urban Forestry Support Fund – Trainee Programme**

Hong Kong • 10 August 2020 – The Construction Industry Council (CIC), as commissioned by the Government, will administer the “Urban Forestry Support Fund – Trainee Programme” (Trainee Programme) starting from today. The Trainee Programme encourages employers to engage and train arboriculture and tree management graduates to become quality arborists and tree climbers to support tree management and maintenance work in Hong Kong.

Ir Albert CHENG, Executive Director of the CIC said, “The Trainee Programme deploys the “first-hire-then-train” principle. In collaboration with employers, the programme will enable arboriculture and tree management graduates to receive on-the-job training to acquire necessary working experience. With our experience in administering structured on-the-job training in collaboration with contractors for various trades in the construction industry, we are confident that the Trainee Programme can provide quality training to graduates, paving the way for qualified arborists and tree climbers in future.”

The Trainee Programme is applicable to graduates of arboriculture, tree management and tree work programmes at Level 3 to Level 5 of the Qualifications Framework offered by local vocational, tertiary and training institutions. The programme will provide training allowance at about 30% of agreed monthly remuneration levels to the trainees through their employers, as well as a bonus at \$30,000 and \$20,000 upon their acquisition of recognised arborist or tree climber professional qualifications respectively. The training periods for arborist and tree climber trainees are three years and 18 months respectively.

Eligible employers are invited to participate in the Trainee Programme and to take in arborist and tree climber trainees at agreed or higher remuneration levels (including the training allowances provided under the programme). They are also required to provide structured training meeting stipulated requirements.

The Trainee Programme accepts applications from employers throughout the year. For further details of the programme, please visit www.cic.hk/ufsf-tp_e. For enquiry, please contact us at 2100 9000 or email to ufsf-tp@cic.hk.

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**CONSTRUCTION
INDUSTRY COUNCIL**
建造業議會

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About the Construction Industry Council

The Construction Industry Council (CIC) was formed in 2007 under the Construction Industry Council Ordinance (Cap. 587). The CIC consists of a chairman and 24 members representing various sectors of the industry including employers, professionals, academics, contractors, workers, independent persons and Government officials.

The main functions of the CIC are to forge consensus on long-term strategic issues, convey the industry's needs and aspirations to the Government, provide professional training and registration services, and serve as a communication channel between the Government and the construction industry.

Please visit www.cic.hk for further details.