

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Construction Industry Council Relief Fund Earmarks HK\$70 Million for Multi-skills Training Scheme to Enhance Registered Workers' Competitiveness

HONG KONG · 15 January 2021 – In line with the relief measures for labours under *The 2020-21 Budget*, the Construction Industry Council (CIC) launched the “Construction Industry Council Relief Fund – Multi-skills Training Scheme for Registered Workers” (Multi-skills Training Scheme) through its Hong Kong Institute of Construction (HKIC) with the provision of HK\$70 million to support registered construction workers who are underemployed or temporarily unemployed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Workers are encouraged to acquire new skills and enhance their competitiveness to prepare for further development in the industry.

The Multi-skills Training Scheme consists of 21 full-time short courses (see Table 1), three of which also offer classes in English to cater for non-Cantonese speaking workers. The courses under this scheme will commence from 18 January 2021 to 17 January 2022 with a quota of 2,000. Applications will be accepted on a first-come-first-served basis until the quota is reached.

Admission interviews will be arranged for eligible applicants. Those admitted students who meet the attendance requirement and pass the course assessment may receive a special monthly allowance of HK\$3,000 in addition to a monthly basic allowance of HK\$7,650 and a one-off graduation allowance. Upon completion of the course, the training allowance could be up to HK\$13,200 per month.

Ir Albert CHENG, Executive Director of the CIC, said, “The construction industry is now facing unprecedented challenges. The CIC has always been committed to providing timely monetary and caring support to construction workers through various measures. Through this Multi-skills Training Scheme offered by HKIC, the CIC aims to assist construction workers in acquiring new skills to enhance their competency while they are in between jobs, thereby it would be easier for them to switch to other trades with manpower shortage or for better job prospects.”

In addition to fulfilling the admission requirements, the applicant should be a registered construction worker (including general workers, as well as intermediate and senior tradesmen) for at least three years before 18 January 2021, and must possess a valid construction worker registration card as at the course commencement date. All applicants must declare their employment status, whether being unemployed or underemployed, when they enroll in the courses. Each applicant can only join the Multi-skills Training Scheme once and is bounded by re-admission requirements of full-time short courses. General workers can apply for intermediate trade tests after completing the course to

become intermediate tradesmen, paving their way for career advancement to senior tradesmen; whilst existing intermediate and senior tradesmen can acquire new skills.

For course information and application details, please visit www.hkic.edu.hk or call 2100 9000 / 2100 9723.

Table 1:

Construction Industry Council Relief Fund – Multi-skills Training Scheme for Registered Workers
1. Certificate in Bar-Bending & Fixing (97 days)
2. Certificate in Metal Formwork (52 days)
3. Certificate in Concreting (24 days)
4. Certificate in Surveying & Setting-Out (90 days)
5. Certificate in Site Surveying (135 days)
6. Certificate in Metal Works (75 days)
7. Certificate in Drainlaying (85 days)
8. Certificate in Timber & Aluminium Formwork (105 days)
9. Certificate in Construction Scaffolding (100 days)
10. Certificate in Welding (70 days)*
11. Certificate for Tower Crane Assemble Technician Assistant (81 days)
12. Certificate in Metal Scaffolding (30 days)*
13. Certificate in Bricklaying & Plastering (94 days)
14. Certificate in Bricklaying & Tiling (97 days)
15. Certificate in Painting (70 days)
16. Certificate in Curtain Wall & Aluminum Window Installation (107 days)
17. Certificate in Plumbing & Pipe-Fitting (90 days)*
18. Certificate for Ground Investigation Assistant (64 days)
19. Certificate in Marble Fixing & Laying (97 days)
20. Certificate in Aluminum Formwork (58 days)
21. Certificate in Modular Integrated Construction Unit Installation (15 days)
* The courses are also offered in English-speaking classes for non-Cantonese-speaking workers.
Note: Applicants should not apply for a training course that they have already obtained Intermediate Trade Test Certificate(s) (Intermediate Tradesman) or Trade Test Certificate(s) (Senior Tradesman) in the same trade.

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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

About the Hong Kong Institute of Construction

To tie in with the changes and progress of the construction industry in Hong Kong, the Hong Kong Institute of Construction (HKIC) was established in 2018. HKIC is a member organisation of the Construction Industry Council and provides a wide range of construction trainings (including full-time and part-time courses) for the young people and working adults who intend to develop their career in the construction industry, and the experienced construction practitioners, who pursue to enhance their skills and knowledge.

Please visit www.hkic.edu.hk for further details.