

Construction Industry Council

Construction Workers Registration Board

Meeting No. 003/14 of the Construction Workers Registration Board was held on Thursday, 22 May 2014 at 3:30 pm at Conference Room, CIC Headquarters, 15/F, Allied Kajima Building, 138 Gloucester Road, Wan Chai, Hong Kong.

Summary notes of the Construction Workers Registration Board Meeting No. 003/14:

Agenda Item	Paper	Major Resolutions / Progress Highlights
3.1	CIC/CRB/M/002/14	<p><u>Confirmation of the Minutes of the Last Meeting</u> Members confirmed the revised minutes of the 2nd meeting of CWRB for 2014.</p>
3.3.1	CIC/CRB/P/016/14 (Progress Report)	<p><u>Workers Registration Offices</u> Even though the staff would be deployed to other registration offices, Members opined that the shutdown of WRO in Aberdeen during renovation would cause much inconvenience to workers. <i>[PMN: In response to Members' opinion, the WRO in Aberdeen would continue providing registration and renewal services during renovation.]</i></p>
3.3.3	CIC/CRB/P/018/14 (for Resolution)	<p><u>Sub-committee on Senior Workers Assessment</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • About 700 applications for Specified Training Courses were received from expired Registered Skilled Workers (Provisional) since January 2014. • More in-depth discussion of budget and manpower for the provision of written and interview assessments of senior workers by three major trade unions would be made. • An information counter was proposed to be set up at the Resource Centre in Kowloon Bay to provide the public with information on senior workers registration, to handle enquiries and assist workers in completing the application form.
3.3.4	CIC/CRB/P/019/14 (for Resolution)	<p><u>Sub-committee on Registration Matters</u> <u>Addition of trades</u> The addition of two trades - “False Ceiling Worker” and “Partition (Metal Frame) Worker” were approved.</p>

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		<p><u>Specified Form for “Exempted Emergency Construction Work” , the Code of Practice on “Instruction and Supervision” and the Code of Practice on “Exempted Small Scale Construction Work”</u></p> <p>The Sub-committee was now revising the drafts of the above.</p> <p><u>Exploring the feasibility of providing outreach renewal service on construction sites</u></p> <p>Sub-committee would discuss the implementation details of the pilot scheme of outreach renewal service and report it and seek approval in the next scheduled meeting.</p> <p><u>To even out the number of renewal applications between 2015 and 2021</u></p> <p>Sub-committee would suggest possible solutions to meet the anticipated peak demand for renewal applications in 2020 and 2021 in order to spread out the number of applications evenly across 2014 to 2021. For instance, giving out cash voucher which can be used to pay for registration fee or training courses.</p> <p><u>Reviewing the reimbursement arrangement of registration fee</u></p> <p>To amend the Construction Workers Registration (Fees) Regulation, charging a unit of HK\$20 registration fee per annum or less than one year.</p> <p>In addition, the Sub-committee would propose measures to avoid workers re-applying for renewal within a short period after switching their registration from provisional to normal.</p>
3.3.5	CIC/CRB/P/020/14 (Progress Report)	<p><u>Task Force on Data Analysis</u></p> <p>The second round of telephone survey was completed and the findings were similar to the results of the first round of survey. The Task Force would study the feasibility of increasing the number of telephone survey from two times to three times a year.</p>

3.3.6	CIC/CRB/P/021/14 (for Resolution)	<p><u>Task Force on Construction Workers Registration System</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To alleviate the burden on contractors, subsidy would be granted to those contractors with uncompleted projects during the transition period from old to new registration system. • CIC was now developing a card reading device with interface to biometric authentication of contractor's system. • Timetable for implementation of the new system: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ WRO would use the new system to handle workers registration starting from Dec 2014, including the issuance of old workers registration card with five-year validity; ➤ Testing of new system would be conducted on pre-selected construction sites in Jan 2015; ➤ To assist the remaining contractors to replace new card reading device starting from Mar 2015; ➤ To issue new workers registration cards in Jul or to be postponed till Sep 2015.
3.3.7	CIC/CRB/P/022/14 (Progress Report)	<p><u>Task Force on Reviewing the Outflow of Construction Workers</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Three types of outflow workers were identified, i.e. (Type 1) collected from the telephone survey, registered workers who did not engage in construction work due to lack of job opportunities, inadequate income as well as unemployed; (Type 2) workers with expired registration who left the industry owing to the above reasons; and (Type 3) CIC graduates who did not join the construction industry. • Apart from providing regular services to Type 3 outflow workers, Department of Trainees Recruitment and Career Support gave priority to Type 1 outflow workers (188 CIC graduates under 60 years old) and provided 18 out of 188 graduates with job matching services for suitable vacancies. • To seek legal advice to ascertain whether CIC could provide job matching services for non-CIC graduates.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Type 1 outflow skilled workers aged 60 years or older would be forwarded to Human Resources Department to consider whether they were qualified to be recruited as instructors. • To be followed up by relevant departments, Type 2 outflow workers who wished to rejoin the construction industry would be identified through telephone survey.
3.4	CIC/CRB/P/023/14 (for Resolution)	<p><u>Establishment of the “Task Force on the Promotion of Remaining Phase of Prohibition of CWRO”</u></p> <p>Chaired by Mr HO Wai-wah, CWRB approved the establishment of the Task Force with the terms of reference as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To propose the publicity plan of the remaining phase of prohibition of CWRO; and • To propose the publicity plan for the pre-assessment of Group Two Senior Workers before the implementation of the remaining phase of prohibition of CWRO.

Remarks: The mentioned papers discussed at the Construction Workers Registration Board can be made available to Council Members from the Workers Registration Secretariat upon request.