

**Construction Industry Council**

Meeting No. 005/15 of the Construction Industry Council for 2015 was held on Friday, 30 October 2015 at 2:30 pm at Meeting Room 1, Construction Industry Council Headquarters, 15/F Allied Kajima Building, 138 Gloucester Road, Wan Chai, Hong Kong.

Present	:	Shing-see LEE	(SSL)	Chairman
		Andrew CHAN	(AKYC)	
		Hau-wai CHEUNG	(HWC)	
		Paul CHONG	(PC)	
		Robert LAM	(PHL)	
		Christopher LEUNG	(KYL)	
		Lawrence NG	(LN)	
		Wilfred Shek-chun WU	(WSCW)	
		Sze-chun WONG	(SCW)	
		Reuben CHU	(RCU)	
		Ringo Shek-man YU	(RiYu)	
		Siu-hung CHAN	(SHC)	
		Luen-kiu CHOW	(LKC)	
		Ada FUNG	(AF)	for Permanent Secretary for Transport and Housing (Housing)
		Chi-keung HON	(HCK)	Permanent Secretary for Development (Works)
In Attendance	:	Dominic CHOW	(DCW)	Development Bureau
		Christopher TO	(CT)	Executive Director
		Ivan WONG	(IW)	Director – Registration Services
		Cheryl IP	(CI)	Assistant Director - HR, Facilities Management & Admin
		Katherine TAM	(OKT)	Senior Manager - Finance
		Miranda YEAP	(MYP)	Senior Manager – Council Services
		Julian LEE	(JnL)	Senior Manager – Research & Development
		Belle HO	(CYH)	Manager – Council Services
Apologies	:	Stephen LAI	(SLI)	
		Melissa Kaye PANG	(MKP)	
		Tak-ching MAK	(TCM)	
		Allan CHAN	(SKC)	
		Chi-wah LAI	(CWL <sub>i</sub> )	
		Tai-chong CHEW	(TCC)	
		Kevin POOLE	(KP)	
		Mike WONG	(MW)	
		Siu-wai HUI	(SWH)	Director of Buildings

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[The open-door session of the meeting started at 4:25 p.m.]

**5.8 Confirmation of Minutes of the Previous Meeting  
(Open-door Session)**

Members referred to Paper CIC/CMT/M/004/15 and approved the minutes of the open-door session of the 4<sup>th</sup> meeting of 2015 held on Friday, 28 August 2015 at Meeting Room 1, Construction Industry Council Headquarters, 15/F Allied Kajima Building, 138 Gloucester Road, Wan Chai, Hong Kong.

**5.9 Matters Arising from the Previous Meeting  
(Open-door Session)**

Nil.

**5.10 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of Committee on Productivity and Research for  
2015**

Members took note of the Paper CIC/CMT/P/051/15.

The following issues were highlighted:

- Item 2.2 - The Study of Benchmarking the Construction Trade Productivity in Hong Kong aimed to identify 10 critical construction trades for building & infrastructure projects in Hong Kong and examine the productivity of those critical trades. A unified measurement of productivity that was applicable to all project types would be needed for the study.
- Item 2.3 - The aim of the project - Assessing the Performance of the Hong Kong Construction Industry, Key Performance Indicators (KPI): An International Comparison was to enhance the competitiveness of Hong Kong construction industry by benchmarking its performance against other countries. The project was currently at its literature review stage where KPIs from other places were being studied. A set of KPIs for measuring performance of the local construction industry would be identified to facilitate historical and international comparison.

SC Wong declared interest regarding the above research project.

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- Item 2.4 - A presentation was delivered by NAMI's representatives to give Members of Com-PNR an introduction of their recent research and the difficulties encountered. Currently, NAMI was focusing on three main research areas, namely nano-material coating, resource recycling and cementitious material formulation.
- Item 2.5 – For the development Strategy for the Hong Kong Construction Industry, members took note on the Paper CIC/PNR/P/003/15. A forum on McKinsey's report was organised on 30 September 2015. More forums of similar nature would be organised in October and November 2015.
- Item 2.6 – 66 applications were received for the CIC Innovation Award and they were being assessed by the Panel of judges at the moment.

Members had no comments on items in Paper CIC/CMT/P/051/15.

**5.11 8<sup>th</sup> Meeting of Construction Industry Training Board for 2015**

Members took note of the Paper CIC/CMT/P/052/15.

The following issues were highlighted:

- Item 8.2 - Members noted the following:
  - i) in response to the low participation rate in cooperative training schemes, the management would explore the feasibility of providing training in a hybrid mode; and
  - ii) comments of CITB had been forwarded to the Workers Registration Secretariat regarding the enhancement of promotion of the provisions of “designated workers for designated skills” under Construction Workers Registration Ordinance, with special attention on the dissemination and promotion of information to workers not working in local construction sites and the expansion of the outreach teams. In addition, promotion leaflets in ethnic minority languages were made available, a staff with ethnic minority background was recruited to help in related tasks, and the giving out of a catering voucher of \$20 to attract workers to submit applications for trade tests was also approved.
- Item 8.3 - In order to further enhance the quality of safety training and cater for the Guidance Notes on Application for Recognition of Mandatory Safety Training Courses by Labour Department, Members agreed to cease offering multi-media self-learning packages for the Green Card Courses and the

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related revalidation courses starting from 5 October 2015. Request for additional resources for setting up of Green Card courses and the related revalidation training courses was also agreed.

- Item 8.4 – The proposal of a new Course Advisory Panel on Concreting and the membership of the panel were accepted. The terms of office would begin in September 2015 and end in December 2016.
- Item 8.5 – Since there were many uncertain factors regarding the purchase of second-hand construction plants, Members of CITB agreed not to pursue the proposal of purchasing second-hand construction plants.
- Item 8.6 – The report on the results of mobile crane operator test was noted. The Course Advisory Panel on Plant Operation had established a working group to discuss whether the contents of the captioned test and assessment levels could meet the market needs. Labour Department was also invited to attend the meeting held at the end of August. Participants in the meeting agreed that the existing assessment standard of CIC was aptly strict, and agreed to maintain the pass mark at 60 and decided not to make a change to the test requirements. However, Labour Department highlighted there was a need to continue maintaining the safety standards. As regards the concern for the low passing rate of external applicants, Chairman of CITB proposed that CITB, Committee on Construction Safety and Labour Department should work together to holistically review the related safety certificates, operations, training and tests for crane operator.
- Item 8.7- The introduction of Skills Enhancement Courses for Ethnic Minorities - Pilot Scheme and its proposed course contents were approved.
- Item 8.8 – The report on benchmarks of efficiency for full-time courses (drop-out rate and overall pass rate) was noted. Members noted the drop-out rate and overall pass rate for Basic Craft Courses and Construction Supervisor/Technician Programme in 2014/15 as well as the short courses commenced between January and June 2015. The proposed follow-up actions were also noted.
- Item 8.9 – Applications were received for 25 trades under cooperative training schemes in the first half of 2015 and out of which 17 trades had started training. Members also noted the drop-out rate and overall pass rate of these cooperative training schemes.
- Item 8.10 – The subsidisation of eight courses of VTC Diploma in Vocational Education (DVE) Programme - Technician in

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2015/2016 with a total of 400 training places was approved. The estimated financial expenditure of \$11,088,000 per 360 target graduates and the revised proposal for giving out subsidy were also approved.

- Item 8.11 & 8.12 – Members noted the respective summary reports of the 4th meeting of the Task Force on Training and Task Force on Trade Testing in 2015, which included approval for the purchase of two new excavators and the tender documents as well as the request for Course Advisory Panel to review the test requirements of the trades with low pass rate.
- Item 8.13 – The Advanced Construction Manpower Training Scheme - Pilot Scheme was launched on 1 September 2015 and progress on applications would be reported to CITB on a regular basis.
- Item 8.14- The Tender assessment report on construction of model workshop on metal scaffolding at Trade Testing Centre was noted.

A Member requested the Secretariat to respond to the news article regarding waiting time of machineries and cranes operation courses by next week.

[PMN: The response to the news article was issued on 6 November 2015.]

Members had no comments on items in Paper CIC/CMT/P/052/15.

**5.12 4<sup>th</sup> Meeting of Steering Group on Implementation of CWRO Amendments for 2015**

Members took note of the Paper CIC/CMT/P/053/15.

The following issues were highlighted:

- Item 4.2 – To prepare for the implementation of the “designated workers for designated skills” provision in April 2017 in relation to overseas skill qualification, members of the steering group proposed extending the terms of reference of the SGICA to cover studying possible measures such as recognising trade tests conducted overseas, providing CIC trade tests outside Hong Kong and collaborating with overseas training institutes. Members approved the above proposal.

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- Item 4.4 – The highlights of the work of CWRB for the Amendments to the CWRO were as follows:
  - (a) The newly established outreach team collected 37 and 366 applications for trade tests and “Senior Workers Registration Arrangement” respectively at 4 construction sites from end of August to 11 September 2015.
  - (b) 20 construction sites participated in the 2nd on-site trial of the reasonable measures for “instruction and supervision” and “exempted works” from September to October. The reasonable measures had been improved based on the results obtained in the first trial completed in end of June.

*[AKYC and WSCW left the meeting at this juncture.]*

HCK said that the effectiveness of the outreach team was quite good although more efforts were still necessary. Another Member opined that the rate of registration of senior workers was on the increase initially but only remained steady recently.

Members had no comments on other items in Paper CIC/CMT/P/053/15.

**5.13 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of Committee on Construction Safety for 2015**

Members took note of the Paper CIC/CMT/P/054/15.

The following issues were highlighted:

- Item 3.4 - Members of Task Group on Safety of Lorry-mounted Cranes suggested reviewing the existing training and examination of the crane operator. The recommendations from the Task Group had been brought to the Course Advisory Panel on Plant Operation under the Task Force on Training of CITB to explore the possibility of implementation. Members expressed concern on the passing mark of the truck-mounted crane practical test. CITB would be informed to review and follow up accordingly.
- Item 3.5 - The Safety Alert No. 002/15 – “Safety of Lorry-mounted Cranes - Considerations when Purchasing and Assembling Lorry-mounted Cranes” was tabled at the meeting. Members of Com-CSY endorsed in principle the

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Safety Alert No. 002/15.

- Item 3.6 - Task Group meetings were held to facilitate the drafting of the Guidelines on Safety of Lift Shaft Works Volume 4 – Builders' Lift. The Guidelines were targeted to be submitted to the Task Force on Site Safety of Working in Lift Shaft for review in late 2015 / early 2016.
- Item 3.7 - The trial runs for Rear RFID Sensing / Alarm System for Vehicles were conducted. Besides, 10 sets of Safety Belt Engagement Sensing System would be available by the Hong Kong R&D Centre for Logistics and Supply Chain Management Enabling Technologies (LSCM) in October 2015 for testing and the trial run would be conducted accordingly.
- Item 3.8 - The opening ceremony and the first training course of the Safety Training Scheme “Experimental Learning on Site Safety 2015” (co-organised by CIC and the Hong Kong Construction Association (HKCA)) were successfully held on 27 August 2015 at Noah’s Ark of Ma Wan. Around 8 more classes with the committed tertiary institutions were in progress.
- Item 3.9 - The Construction Safety Poster No. P-CSY-002-15 “Tips of Using Safety Helmets” was formally published on 1 September 2015. Mr. Victor Kwong shared in the Com-CSY meeting some good safety helmets samples from Japan. Members appreciated the good quality of the samples and noted that review on the content of the Construction Safety Poster might be required in the near future.
- Item 3.11 - The CIC Secretariat shared the experience on the Benchmarking Study Tour in Singapore during Com-CSY meeting. Members appreciated the overall safety policy framework, construction fatality rate, risk management 2.0, bizSAFE programme, design for safety, construction safety orientation course and site projects in Singapore.
- Item 3.14 – (a) On suggestion of the Committee on Construction Safety (Com-CSY) to provide more safety training for ethnic minority groups, the CIC management had taken up the initiative to address the issue and put forward a collaboration proposal received from a contractor to Com-CSY for consideration.

Some members of the Com-CSY perceived that the proposal might constitute a possible favoritism to the proposed

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contractor.

It was noted that the proposal would be further deliberated at the forthcoming CITB meeting before seeking approval from Com-ANF and the Council.

*[RCU and LKC left the meeting at this juncture.]*

HCK recommended that CIC discussed with the government on the restriction of land use before submitting the revised proposal to CITB.

(Post meeting note: Given the land lease for training ground was for two years only, Members of CITB decided not to proceed further with the proposal until a suitable land with longer lease was available, so as to justify the expenditure for the setting up of a safety training venue for ethnic minority groups.)

(b) Regarding the progress of the Safety Experience and Training Centre (SETC) (Phase 1) for the Construction Industry, only one tender had been received after using the approach of an Expression of Interest (EOI) proposal and the second stage of tender process could not proceed. After deliberations, it was agreed to adopt another approach (i.e. to engage foreign external specialist equipment suppliers) to design and install the specialist equipment on a trial basis.

The Chairman requested Com-CSY to follow up on the high casualty rate from accidents in October. A Member commented that a change of mindset and participation of the construction workers were essential in enhancing construction site safety. A Member also expressed his views on safety and opined that a penalty mechanism on workers should be considered to enhance the safety awareness of workers. He suggested the issue to be further discussed at the forthcoming Members Away Day.

Members had no comments on other items in Paper CIC/CMT/P/054/15.

5.14 **3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of Committee on Procurement and Subcontracting for 2015**

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A verbal report was made by MYP on the progress of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of Com-PNS at the last meeting.

MYP added that further NEC accreditation programmes might be conducted in collaboration with NEC UK in 2016.

Members had no comments on items in Paper CIC/CMT/P/055/15.

**5.15 Any Other Business**

CT invited Members to read the CIC Research Journal “Innovation in Construction - Issue 2” which was tabled at the meeting.

**5.16 Tentative Date of Next Meeting 006/15**

The next meeting was scheduled for 11 December 2015 (Friday) at **All to note** 2:30 p.m. at Meeting Room 1, Construction Industry Council Headquarters, 15/F Allied Kajima Building, 138 Gloucester Road, Wan Chai, Hong Kong.

There being no further business, the open-door session of the meeting was adjourned at 5:50 p.m.