

Construction Industry Council

Construction Workers Registration Board

Meeting No. 006/13 of the Construction Workers Registration Board (CWRB) was held on Wednesday, 25 September 2013 at 4pm at Multi-Purpose Hall, Ground Floor, ZCB, 8 Sheung Yuet Road, Kowloon Bay, Kowloon, Hong Kong.

Summary Notes of Construction Workers Registration Board (CWRB) Meeting No. 006/13:

Agenda Item	Paper	Major Resolutions/Progress Highlights
6.1		<u>Minutes of the Last Meeting</u> - Members confirmed the revised minutes of the 5 th meeting of CWRB for 2013.
6.2.1	CIC/CRB/P/050/13	<u>Matters Arising from the Last Meeting</u> Members had no comment on the progress of the establishment of Workers Registration Office at MTR Nam Cheong Station. To create awareness amongst workers and stakeholders, the Council was requested to make necessary arrangements for the opening ceremony. To enhance the image of the CIC, it was recommended to enhance the promotion of the events and activities organised by the Council such as scholarship for family members of registered construction workers and product display etc. It was also recommended to appoint a public relations company to provide professional advice and services and to develop an overall publicity plan for specific events, if deemed necessary. When developing the publicity plan for 2014, the Secretariat was suggested to consider

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		organising some events and activities on a regular basis with the aim of extending our reach to more registered workers.
6.3.2	CIC/CRB/P/051/13 (For Deliberation and Resolution)	<p><u>Proposed Fee for Registration with Validity to be Extended from 3 Years to 5 Years</u></p> <p>Benefit from the boom of the construction industry in Hong Kong, which generate sufficient funds from levy to sustain the operation of the Council and taking into account that the extension of the validity would indirectly reduce the production cost of the registration card. Members unanimously rejected the proposition to increase the registration fee. The registration fee would remain at HK\$100.</p>
6.3.3	CIC/CRB/P/052/13 (For Deliberation and Resolution)	<p><u>Nomination of Construction Workers Qualifications Board Members</u></p> <p>Members unanimously agreed to re-appoint Mr Eric YUNG Chun-tang from Hong Kong Federation of Electrical and Mechanical Contractors Limited, Mr WONG Ping from Hong Kong Construction Employees General Union and Ir Dr Patrick LUN Tak-wo from MTR Corporation Ltd as members of the Construction Workers Qualifications Board with term of office from 25 October 2013 to 31 December 2015.</p> <p>Upon expiry of the term of office, Mr. Christopher To proposed that the remaining vacancy should be filled up by a representative from the academic sector. The Hong Kong Polytechnic University would first be invited to nominate a representative for this term. With no further comment from Members, the recommendation was endorsed.</p>
6.3.4	CIC/CRB/P/053/13 (For Deliberation	<p><u>Review of Staff Establishment of Workers Registration Offices</u></p> <p>When job vacancies arise in other departments of the Council, Chairman reiterated that</p>

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	and Resolution)	<p>consideration should be given to those temporary staff who previously served at the WROs with contract expired after the peak renewal period.</p> <p>After discussion, CWRB endorsed the following proposals of staff establishment and would forward the recommendations to CIC management for further consideration and follow-up:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) to employ additional 4 Assistant Officers and 18 Assistants with a fixed-term contract of 4 years ii) to convert the temporary staff to full-time employees including 1 Senior Officer – Verification, 1 Assistant Officer and 2 Assistants recruited in 2010 or before.
6.4.1	CIC/CRB/P/05413 (Progress Report)	<p><u>Workers Registration Offices</u></p> <p>Members took note of the registration figures and the progress of the work of WROs.</p> <p>To avoid misinterpretation of the number of registered construction workers, it was recommended to consider removing workers engaged in non-construction works at the construction sites (e.g. truck driver) or categorizing the registered construction workers into skilled workers and unskilled workers to avoid wide disparity to continue to persist and expand in the industry between the total number of registered workers and the number of workers actually performing construction work.</p> <p>Chairman suggested that this recommendation could be further discussed and reviewed with reference to the Telephone Survey Report on Registered Workers in 2012, which would be issued shortly.</p>

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6.4.2	CIC/CRB/P/055/13 (Progress Report)	<p><u>Inspection and Enforcement</u> Members had no comment on the report on inspection and enforcement.</p>
6.4.3	CIC/CRB/P/056/13 (Progress Report)	<p><u>Sub-committee on Specified Training Courses</u> In response to the proposal of selecting two to three popular trades among 67 trades for conducting a trial run on the mechanism of the Specified Training Courses as proposed in the 5th meeting of CWRB, the Secretariat had selected three trades including painter and decorator, plumber as well as plasterer, to conduct a trial of allowing workers with expired temporary registration to enroll in the Specified Training Courses. The Secretariat had requested Trade Testing Centre on 13 August 2013 for conducting relevant courses as early as possible.</p> <p>Referring to the fee of re-taking Specified Training Courses, Trade Testing Centre proposed to reduce the fees of both simplified Specified Training Courses and re-taking Specified Training Courses to \$150. Members agreed with the proposition.</p> <p>Concerning the above two recommendations, Trade Testing Centre was now preparing a paper to be submitted for approval by CITB at its meeting on 17 October.</p>
6.4.4	CIC/CRB/P/057/13 (Progress Report)	<p><u>Sub-committee on Registration Matters</u> The following recommendations were endorsed by the Sub-committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Considering the statutory provision of installation of electronic card reading device had come into effect in September 2007, the Board opined that main contractors had been given sufficient time to make necessary arrangements. Nonetheless, the situation had

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		<p>not improved. Thus, majority of Board Members agreed that main contractors, who violated the law for the first time but had installed the card reader within 14 days after receiving warning would not be prosecuted. Yet, the period for immediate prosecution against the main contractors who offended against the law for the second time within 6 months would be tightened to within 12 months after the first violation;</p> <p>ii) Under the proposed amendments to the Ordinance, “Plant and Equipment Operator (Tunneling) - Locomotive Operation” would be cancelled and replaced by “Plant and Equipment Operator (Locomotive)”. When renewing the registration card, the workers must hold a relevant qualification of “Plant and Equipment Operator (Locomotive)” in order to be eligible to register as a skilled worker of “Plant and Equipment Operator (Locomotive)”.</p>
6.4.5	CIC/CRB/P/058/13 (Progress Report)	<p><u>Task Force on Data Analysis</u> Telephone Survey on Registered Workers in 2012 was completed. The interim report had been submitted to the Board for reference. The Task Force was preparing the final report.</p> <p>Proposed by Chairman, the telephone survey would be carried out on a regular basis in the future, i.e. to conduct a small-scale telephone survey on a half-yearly basis in order to keep updated on the workers’ attendance and the trends in the supply and demand for manpower.</p>
6.5		<p><u>Any Other Business</u> 6.5.1 <u>Worker’s Lung Health Examination</u> To facilitate the staff of the Pneumoconiosis Compensation Fund Board to handle the</p>

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		<p>applications for health check, Workers Registration Offices were urged to study the feasibility of providing application services or a place to set up a temporary counter at WROs.</p> <p>6.5.2 <u>Proposed Nomination of Acting Director – Workers Registration and Acting Senior Manager – Workers Registration</u></p> <p>Considering the administrative arrangements of CWRB Secretariat after the resignation of the Director – Workers Registration, CWRB endorsed the following two acting appointments and the related acting allowance. The proposed acting appointments would be forwarded to CIC management for consideration and follow-up:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">i) Acting Appointment of Director – Workers Registration by Ir. Davis Liu, Senior Manager – Workers Registration with the grant of acting allowance;ii) Acting appointment of Senior Manager – Workers Registration by Ir. Margaret Chau, Head of Technical Services with the grant of acting allowance.