

Construction Industry Council

Meeting No. 006/12 of the Construction Industry Council for 2012 was held on Friday, 14 December 2012 at 2:30pm 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 (AC)
Siu-hung CHAN (SHC)
Teresa CHENG (TC)
Hau-wai CHEUNG (HWC)
Paul CHONG (PC)
Jan-ming KO (JMK)
Wo-hei LAM (WHL)
Christopher LEUNG (KYL)
Tak-ching MAK (TCM)
Lawrence NG (LN)
Bay WONG (ByW)
Conrad WONG (CW)
Mike WONG (MW)
Wai-wai YU (WWY)
Choi-kai AU (CKA) Director of Buildings
Ada FUNG (AF) for Permanent Secretary for Transport
and Housing (Housing)

In Attendance : Grace LUI Development Bureau
Charmaine WONG (HWW) Development Bureau
Lionel LAU Hong Kong Housing Authority
Christopher TO (CT) Executive Director
Charles WONG (CWG) Director – Training and Development
Katherine TAM (OKT) Senior Manager - Finance
Ivan WONG (IW) Senior Manager - Council Services
Shirley LEE (SyL) Manager – Council Services

Apologies : Tai-chong CHEW (TCC)
Luen-kiu CHOW (LKC)
James KWAN (JK)
Thomas HO (TH)
Kevin POOLE (KP)
Koon-sun WAN (KSW)
Billy WONG (BW)
Chi-sing WAI (CSW) Permanent Secretary for Development
(Works)

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[The open-door session of the meeting started at 4:10pm.]

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

Members referred to Paper CIC/CMT/M/005/12 and approved the minutes of the open-door session of the 5th meeting for 2012 held on Friday, 26 October 2012 at Meeting Room 1, Construction Industry Council Headquarters, 15/F Allied Kajima Building, 138 Gloucester Road, Wan Chai, Hong Kong.

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

As a follow-up of the last meeting, CT reported that a preliminary analysis of setting up a permanent office for CIC was conducted in response to a suggestion put forward by a Member. The following analysis were made:

- Conversion and renovation of an industrial building for office use would incur high construction costs;
- Land supply and high construction costs would be great concerns if a new building is to be constructed as CIC headquarters; and
- Other options to be considered include to purchase or rent.

The Secretariat would continue its analysis and report back to the Council in due course.

The following opinions and comments were also given for consideration at the meeting:

- Abandoned/empty school buildings to be converted for office use;
- Set up the headquarters at ZCB to improve the utilization rate. However, DEVB emphasised that such land use would far exceed the maximum permissible land use granted by the Town Planning Board.
- Re-develop Kowloon Bay Training Centre of CIC

Other matters arising from the previous meeting would be covered at the later part of the meeting.

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6.10 **4th Meeting of Committee on Construction Site Safety for 2012**

Members referred to Paper CIC/CMT/P/057/12 and received a brief report by HWC.

The following issues were highlighted:

- A series of safety alerts would be compiled to address safety problems associated with RMAA works.
- Item 4.2 (3.4(iii)) – Labour Department and CIC would continue with the joint promotional effort to improve construction site safety by hoisting safety banners at the Operation Building Bright (OBB) sites.
- Item 4.4 – Volume 3 of the Guidelines on Safety of Lift Shaft Works was now being drafted by the Task Force on Site Safety of Working in Lift Shaft.
- Item 4.5 – A Task Group on Implementation of Heat Stress Action Plan was formed to review the recommended measures proposed in the revised guidelines prepared by HKU.
- Item 4.6 (i) – A Safety Alert No. 001/12 on “Water Piping Layout Works – Pressure Test (Road Works)” was issued on 29 August 2012.
- Item 4.6 (ii) – Key elements recommended by the Coroner’s Court in the letter of 31 August 2012 on the collapse of reinforcement steel cage had been included in the Safety Alert No. 001/11 on “Fabrication of Reinforcement Cages of Bored Piles”. Further recommendations proposed by the Coroner’s Court had been covered in the guidelines which would be published shortly.
- Item 4.6 (iii) – Some works involving high level of risk were identified for issuing safety alerts.
- Item 4.7 – Issued on 23 November 2012, the Safety Alert No. 003/12 on “Prevention of Electrocutation” was tabled for Members’ information. A technical seminar would be organised on 18 December 2012 to deliver the key messages and provide practical information to frontline personnel in construction sites.
- Item 4.9 – Tabled for Members’ information, two sets of site housekeeping poster were issued on 23 November 2012.
- Item 4.10 – The method statements for erecting/alteration/dismantling of bamboo scaffolding, erecting/alteration/dismantling of truss-out bamboo scaffolding and dismantling of

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walls in buildings were being prepared by the Task Force on Review of Major Construction Method Statements.

- Item 4.12 – To increase the number of guidelines to be issued by the Council and considering the importance of responding promptly and professionally to the industry, Members generally supported the proposition to solicit consultancy services, on term contract or project basis for the provision of technical writing services for the guidelines drafting. A Member added that active participation and contribution from industry experts and professionals on a voluntary basis was necessary to steer the preparation of the guidelines during the process. Suggested by some Members, the Council should consider forming a team of professional technical writers responsible for technical writing and producing technical documentation. After a long discussion, CT proposed that a paper would be prepared by the Secretariat and submitted to Com-ANF for further deliberation.
- Item 4.15 (i) – After reviewing the recent spate of fatal accidents, Com-CSS would expedite the production of guidelines and safety alerts covering high risk works.
- Item 4.15 (iii) – A press briefing to promote the Guidelines on the Adoption of the Pay for Safety Scheme was organised on 13 December 2012.

**CIC
Secretariat**

Members had no comments on other items in Paper CIC/CMT/P/057/12.

[Ms. Grace Lui left the meeting at this juncture.]

6.11 **5th Meeting of Committee on Environment and Technology for 2012**

Members referred to Paper CIC/CMT/P/058/12 and received a brief report by WWY.

The following issues were highlighted:

- Item 5.2 (i) – Chaired by Mr. Simon Wong, CEO of the Hong Kong R&D Centre for Logistics and Supply Chain Management Enabling Technologies (LSCM), the Task Force on Schematic Design for Application of RFID, GPS and Sensor Technology in Monitoring the Movement of Construction Waste was formed. The first meeting would be held in January 2013.
- Item 5.3 – Hong Kong Housing Authority was invited to give a

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presentation on “Implementation of Construction Products Certification in Hong Kong Housing Authority”. To encourage a wider adoption of product certification, Com-ENT opined that CIC, being recognised as a highly reputable organisation, was considered appropriate to co-ordinate the preparation of the product schemes.

As the convenor of the Panel on Promoting Testing and Certification Services in Construction Materials Trade set up under the Hong Kong Council for Testing and Certification (HKCTC), Chairman commented that the preparation of product schemes was in effect within the scope of services of HKCTC. To avoid unnecessary overlap of effort, Com-ENT was advised to focus on promoting the benefits of product certification.

In response, WWY said that it was simply a mere proposal put forward by the committee. More in-depth and careful consideration was needed before seeking Council approval.

- Item 5.5 – The working group report on strategic implementation of prefabrication and modular construction had been revised in response to the comments given by working group members. The revised draft report would be submitted to the Council for approval in due course. Relating to this subject, CW declared interest at the meeting that he has invested in the development of precast yards in mainland China. CW added that considering current labour shortage in Hong Kong, careful consideration should be given to avoid creating negative effects on labour market. WWY indicated that all comments given by respective Members would be discussed and analysed thoroughly and holistically at the committee.
- Item 5.6 – An ad hoc review group was set up under Com-ENT to further assess and finalise the research proposals recommended by the Secretariat. It was expected that the selected research proposals would be submitted to Com-ANF for endorsement in January 2013, to be followed by the announcement of the results to respective research institutes prior to the Technology Forum to be held on 18 January 2013. To streamline the document review and approval processes, Com-ENT would discuss whether a formal assessment panel should be established under Com-ANF to carry out the review and assessment of research proposals in future.
- Item 5.8 – The final report of carbon labelling had been endorsed by Com-ENT and would be submitted for approval by the Council. Advised by CT, a meeting had been arranged in

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January 2013 to discuss the implementation mechanism. Advised by CW, HKGBC would launch a green building product labelling system next year in which the part on carbon labeling would be contributed by CIC through its carbon labeling framework. CIC would work closely with HKGBC to push forward this initiative. In reply to the suggestion of uploading the report on CIC's website for public access, Members decided that the report should not be released to the public at this stage until the implementation plan was fully developed.

- Item 5.9 (b) – A technology forum under the theme “Construction for Sustainability” would be organised on 18 January 2013 at ZCB. CT stated that the research funding policy and arrangements would also be conveyed to the attendees of the forum.

Members had no comments on other items in Paper CIC/CMT/P/058/12.

[PC and JMK left the meeting at this juncture.]

6.12 **2nd Joint Meeting of Construction Industry Training Board and the Committee on Manpower Training and Development for 2012**

Members referred to Paper CIC/CMT/P/059/12 and received a brief report by CWG.

The following issues were highlighted:

- Item 2.1 – Members were briefed on the research findings of the survey on construction workers commissioned by CWRA between July and November 2011.
- Item 2.6 – The work plan of construction manpower strategies to address the problems of ageing and skill mismatch in construction industry were proposed.
- Items 2.11 and 2.13 – As a new strategy to increase manpower supply, more short term courses were recently approved by CITB such as concreting training course under the Contractor Cooperative Training Scheme and the full-time short course on marble fixing.
- Item 2.17 – CITB agreed to establish a new “Working Group on RMAA Manpower Research” to investigate methods of

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collecting RMAA data for construction manpower forecast.

- Item 2.19 – CITB agreed to establish a new “Working Group on Standardisation of Labour of Construction Sites” to consult industry stakeholders about drafting a standardised labour deployment record for construction works.

Members had no comments on other items in Paper CIC/CMT/P/059/12.

6.13 Any Other Business

Nil.

6.14 Tentative Date of Next Meeting 001/13

The next meeting was scheduled for 22 February 2013 (Friday) at 2:30pm at Meeting Room 1, Construction Industry Council Headquarters, 15/F Allied Kajima Building, 138 Gloucester Road, Wan Chai, Hong Kong. **All to note**

There being no further business, the open-door session of the meeting was adjourned at 5:10pm.

********End of the Open-door Session********