

**Construction Industry Council**

---

The 5<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Construction Industry Council for 2009 was held on Friday, 30 October 2009 at 2:30 pm at Room 1201, Murray Building, Garden Road, Central.

Present : Keith KERR (KK) Chairman  
Russell BLACK (RB)  
Francis BONG (FB)  
Andrew CHAN (AC)  
Teresa CHENG (TC)  
James CHIU (JC)  
Chun-wa CHOI (CWC)  
Thomas HO (TH)  
Wo-hei LAM (WHL)  
Peter LEE (PL)  
Shing-see LEE (SSL)  
Koon-sun WAN (KSW)  
Conrad WONG (CW)  
Wai-wai YU (WWY)  
Chai-kwong MAK (CKM) Permanent Secretary for  
Development (Works)  
Choi-kai AU (CKA) Director of Buildings  
Ada FUNG (AF) for Permanent Secretary for  
Transport and Housing  
(Housing)

In Attendance : Charmaine WONG (HWW) Development Bureau  
Christopher TO (CT) Executive Director  
Charles WONG (CWG) Director (Training)  
Theresa CHAN (TCN) Senior Manager (Finance)  
Ivan WONG (IW) Senior Manager (Council  
Services) 2  
Phoebe LEUNG (PLG) Manager (Council Services) 2

Apologies : Tat-tong CHEUNG (TTC)  
Stanley HUI (SH)  
Jan-ming KO (JMK)  
Edgar KWAN (EK)  
Thomas KWOK (TK)  
Billy WONG (BW)  
Chun-yuen TSE (CYT)

**MINUTES**

**Action**

**5.1 Confirmation of Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

Members took note of Paper CIC/CMT/M/004/09 and approved the minutes of the 4<sup>th</sup> meeting for 2009 held on 28 August 2009 at Murray Building.

**5.2 Matters Arising from the Previous Meeting**

Matters arising from the previous meeting would be covered under agenda items.

**5.3 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of Committee on Construction Site Safety for 2009**

Members took note of Paper CIC/CMT/P/043/09.

Members endorsed the appointment of Mr Thomas HO as the Chairman of the Committee on Construction Site Safety. His commitment to ensuring work safety at construction sites was fully appreciated. On behalf of the Council, the Chairman proposed a vote of thanks to Mr Thomas KWOK, who had resigned the chairmanship of the Committee with effect from 25 September 2009, for his valuable contributions to site safety initiatives and the betterment of the construction industry.

The Committee had set up a Task Force on Site Safety of Working in Lift Shafts with a view to drawing experiences from various stakeholders to set out best practice for the use by the industry. Ms Ada FUNG, the chairperson of the Task Force, reported that a set of guidelines would be developed by 2010, covering safety measures relating to the following work stages:

- (a) Lift shafts under the management of main contractors;
- (b) Lift shafts under the management of lift contractors; and
- (c) Repair and maintenance.

During the course of review, issues on debris removal and bamboo scaffolding inside lift shafts would also be examined.

The Guidelines on Safety of Tower Cranes issued in 2008 were due for review. Revision would be made to incorporate qualifications and responsibilities of the personnel operating

Action

tower cranes and request the relevant submission to the Voluntary Subcontractor Registration Scheme (VSRS).

The Task Force on Working in Hot Weather would be reactivated to review the application of the Guidelines on Site Safety Measures for Working in Hot Weather with a view to identifying further improvements on related safety measures. Some Members remarked that the implementation of the Guidelines helped improve the working conditions of site workers.

**5.4 4<sup>th</sup> Meeting of Committee on Procurement for 2009**

Members took note of Paper CIC/CMT/P/044/09.

It was noted that the REDA did not nominate representatives to the Task Force on Selection of Consultants and Contractors. Though Members agreed that the presence of REDA's representatives would be helpful for defining best practice for the industry, it appeared that the private sector might not be interested in some industry initiatives.

The Guidelines on Partnering were finalised and would be submitted for Members' endorsement at the next scheduled meeting. The Committee was studying the contract price fluctuation system with a view to developing guidelines for adoption by private sector construction contracts.

**Com-PCM**

**5.5 5<sup>th</sup> Meeting of Committee on Subcontracting for 2009**

Members took note of Paper CIC/CMT/P/045/09.

As for the Stage 2 of the VSRS, Members noted that there was insufficient data to substantiate assigning certain parameters and requirements for defining different grades of subcontractors for every trade. To avoid unfavourable outcomes, the Committee considered deferring the categorisation in order to allow more time for data collection and analysis. In the meantime, the Committee would propose enhancements to the existing VSRS and try to procure more public-funded construction project clients to engage subcontractors registered under the VSRS.

Action

For the Survey of Problems of Outstanding Payments in Construction Supply Chain, questionnaires had been dispatched to the target respondents and the project team was making follow-up calls to help improve the response rate.

5.5.1 Guidelines on Dispute Resolution

Members took note of Paper CIC/CMT/P/046/09 and agreed that the Guidelines on Dispute Resolution would be helpful to address issues on security of payment. While Members in general supported the promulgation of the Guidelines, the Development Bureau (DevB) had reservations about the recommendations of adopting dispute resolution mechanisms as mandatory measures and stipulating the use of dispute resolution advisor (DRA) in all new contracts. The DevB found the implementation of such measures to all government projects of different works departments might not be practical though it was noted that the Housing Authority had successfully introduced the use of the DRA into their works projects. The DevB would discuss the adoption of the aforesaid recommendations in all public works contracts in the coming Works Policy Committee Meeting and report its outcome to CIC at the next scheduled meeting.

**DevB**

Some Members found the term “contractually obliged” more appropriate compared with the term “mandatory” proposed in the Guidelines. The revised Guidelines would be submitted for Members’ further consideration.

**CIC  
Secretariat**

Members also suggested that the Committee should consider the preparation of sample or model specifications for inclusion in the construction works contracts though it was acknowledged that a single sample would not suit to different forms of construction projects.

**Com-SBC**

*[RB and CCW left the meeting at this juncture.]*

5.6 **5<sup>th</sup> Meeting of Committee on Environment and Technology for 2009**

Members took note of Paper CIC/CMT/P/047/09.

Action

The Task Force on Research Activities was reviewing the pros and cons of setting a rolling budget for the CIC research funding and would submit recommendations to the Committee for deliberation. The Task Force would also develop good practice guidelines on research administration including the processing of research proposals and monitoring of funded research projects for the use by the CIC committees. The Chairman reiterated that the research findings should be able to be put into practice.

The Committee was charting the work plan for 2010 and would consider commissioning some research projects of practical values such as the application of radio-frequency identification on construction materials and the development of evaluation mechanisms for carbon footprint of a construction project.

5.6.1 Summary Report on Review of Local Construction Standards

Members took note of Paper CIC/CMT/P/048/09 and endorsed the publication of the Summary Report.

5.7 **3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of Committee on Manpower Training and Development for 2009**

Members took note of Paper CIC/CMT/P/049/09.

The Research on Demand and Supply Models for Construction Manpower Forecast was progressing well. Regarding the number of workers in the construction industry, statistics from the Construction Workers Registration Authority revealed that a substantial portion of registered workers had never worked on construction sites which explained the difference in number of construction workers extracted from CWRA and the actual numbers recorded in construction sites. CPS would take account of the factor and re-analyze the composition of workforce and to incorporate its finding in the draft report.

The tendering exercise for the Consultancy Study of the Definition and Scope of Duties of Site Supervisors for the Construction Industry was near completion. The Consultancy Study was anticipated to be completed in mid-2010.

The Revised Code of Conduct for Personnel in the Construction

Industry was finalised subject to some editorial refinements.

5.8 **4<sup>th</sup> Meeting of Construction Industry Training Board for 2009**

Members took note of Paper CIC/CMT/P/050/09.

The CITB had approved a training course for tunnel boring machine (TBM) operators under the Civil Trades Cooperative Training Scheme. Subject to the industry needs, the Scheme might also cover bar benders and tunnel workers, for which training courses could not be offered by the CIC, or other trades with recruitment difficulties.

The training course for supervisors would be revamped to cover on-the-job training. With the support of the Vocational Training Council, it was expected that the trainees could be qualified for Grade T1 of the Technically Competent Person (TCP).

On heritage training, the CICTA had visited the Guangzhou Municipal Cultural Bureau and would arrange a training course for instructors of the CICTA in December 2009.

5.9 **Any Other Business**

Nil.

There being no further business, the open-door session of the meeting adjourned at 4:35 pm.

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