

Construction Industry Council
1st Progress Report of Committee on Environment and Technology

Purpose

This paper outlines the main points discussed at the 1st meeting of the Committee on Environment and Technology held on 31 May 2007. The record of attendance is at Annex A.

Issues Discussed

(A) *Terms of Reference and Membership*

2. Members discussed and endorsed the membership and terms of reference for the Committee at Annex B. While the first and the second items of the terms of reference would cover sustainable construction, the Committee would take a pragmatic approach and focus on environmental performance of buildings and infrastructures and measures for minimizing the environmental impact of construction contracts in the initial stages and consider extension to other areas after achieving sufficient progress on these initiatives. Members agreed that co-opted members would serve as advisers to the Committee and be invited to attend meetings on need basis to contribute on matters relevant to their interest and expertise.

(B) *Priority Tasks*

3. Members agreed to pursue the priority tasks at Annex C and expressed preliminary views on the way forward.

4. Given the limited staff resources of the future permanent CIC Secretariat, it was suggested that some of the priority tasks could be entrusted to organizations specializing in the related initiatives. For instance, the Committee could partner with the HK-BEAM Society in the development and promotion of building environmental performance assessment schemes and invite HK-Beam Society and the Professional Green Building Council (PGBC) to attend future meetings on need basis to contribute on this topic.

5. On construction standards, it was suggested that the use of British Standards in specifications had been an obstacle in adopting building materials manufactured to other standards, in particular those supplied by manufacturers in the Mainland. On the other hand, BD advised that the adoption of performance-based standards in the Buildings Ordinance and related regulations would facilitate use of building materials manufactured to various national standards.

6. On construction-related research and development (R&D), the universities had access to funding, expertise and facilities for R&D. However, there were missing links that affected the effective use of these for practical research beneficial to the construction industry. In particular, the University Grants Committee only supported academic research. The Innovation and Technology Commission was not prepared to accept construction-related R&D as a priority area for funding using the Innovation and Technology Fund. Current R&D activities were quite task-specific and there was a lack of efforts in achieving synergies between different research projects. The task of the Committee would be to consider how to tackle these issues so as to enable the industry to leverage on the R&D expertise and facilities of the universities.

7. CIC had received requests from several organizations for funding their research activities and the Committee might wish to advise CIC on this. Members also wished to explore the possibility of securing funding for the Committee's activities such as commissioning studies on the priority tasks and R&D beneficial to the whole construction industry. CIC would therefore be asked to consider the modus operandi for funding the activities of the Committees through options such as annual block allocations or considering funding requests on case-by-case basis. However, Members agreed that there was little urgency for the Committee to acquire funding and it was unlikely that any significant funds would be available within 2007 before the amalgamation with CITA.

Any Other Business

8. The Secretariat would collate the papers relevant to the priority tasks for reference by Members and would arrange access to the PCICB website containing papers and discussion records of PCICB and its working groups.

9. The Secretariat would draw up a schedule of meeting dates to facilitate forward planning and a work plan on the basis that each future meeting would focus on one or two priority tasks.

Further Actions

10. The following further actions were agreed –

- (a) Upon endorsement of the membership of the Committee by CIC, the Secretariat would issue letters inviting co-opted members and Government's representatives to join the Committee and attend future meetings;
- (b) The Secretariat would collate the papers relevant to the priority tasks for reference by Members, arrange access to the PCICB website containing papers and discussion records of PCICB and its working groups;
- (c) The Secretariat would request CIC to discuss the modus operandi for funding the activities of the Committee; and
- (d) The Secretariat would prepare a meeting schedule and work plan for the Committee.

CIC Secretariat
June 2007

Committee on Environment and Technology

**1st Meeting held at 2:30 pm on 31 May 2007
in Conference Room 1124, Murray Building**

Record of Attendance

Present

Mr Conrad WONG	Chairman
Mr CHEUNG Tat-tong	
Prof KO Jan-ming	
Mr LAM Wo-hei	
Mr Peter Lee	
Mr CHEUNG Hau-wai	Director of Buildings

Absent with Apologies

Dr Andrew Chan

In Attendance

Dr Alex Li	Environment, Transport and Works Bureau
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Construction Industry Council Secretariat

Mr Jack Chan	Principal Assistant Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works (Works) 1
Mr K H Tao	Chief Assistant Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works (Works) 1
Mr Solomon Wong	Assistant Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works (Works) Public Works Systems Administration 1

Construction Industry Council
Committee on Environment and Technology

Chairman - Mr Conrad Wong

Members

- CIC Members
 - Dr Andrew Chan
 - Mr CHEUNG Tat-tong
 - Prof KO Jan-ming
 - Mr LAM Wo-hei
 - Mr Peter Lee
 - Director of Buildings

- Co-opted Members
 - Mr P H Ho – Hong Kong Federation of Electrical and Mechanical Contractors
 - Mr PANG Long – Hong Kong Construction Site Workers General Union
 - Mr NG Shiu-ming – Association of Plastering Sub-contractors
 - Mr Derek Zen – Hong Kong Construction Association
 - Mr Ken Cheung – Housing Department

- Government Representatives
 - Mr Y C Chan – Environment, Transport and Works Bureau
 - Mr Lawrence Lau – Environmental Protection Department

Terms of Reference

1. To make recommendations on improving the environmental friendliness of buildings and infrastructures including measures for enhancing energy efficiency, improving indoor environmental quality and minimizing loading on the environment.

2. To recommend good practices for improving the environmental performance of construction contracts including measures for abating environmental nuisances and reducing waste generation.
3. To co-ordinate and promote construction research and development and facilitate practical application of research results by the construction industry.
4. To advise on the strategy for development of construction standards.
5. To develop systems for assessing the performance of the construction industry.

Committee on Environment and Technology
Priority Tasks

Environment

Priority	Issue	Background	Follow Up Actions
High	1. CIRC R 89 - Developing a policy framework for sustainable construction.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ETWB has drawn up a preliminary policy framework for sustainable construction comprising institutional arrangements and specific instruments to pursue the priority areas including reduction of C&D waste, reduction of energy consumption of buildings and avoidance of nuisance caused by construction works. The framework was considered by PCICB at the 31st Board meeting on 11 August 2006. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ETWB will submit further proposal on the policy framework for sustainable construction for consideration by the Committee.

Priority	Issue	Background	Follow Up Actions
Medium	2. Rolling out of waste management measures to private sector projects.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PCICB had drawn up in collaboration with REDA and HKCA a proposal for rolling out the waste management measures adopted with proven results in public sector projects to the private sector. • REDA and HKCA would commission a consultancy to develop implementation tools to facilitate their incorporation into construction contracts. • REDA and HKCA would promote the implementation tools in collaboration with CIC and relevant government departments upon the completion of the consultancy. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Committee to keep in view the progress of the consultancy study for developing implementation tools. • The Committee to promote the implementation tools in collaboration with REDA, HKCA and relevant government departments.
Medium	3. CIRC R 105 – Monitoring of building environmental performance assessment schemes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Comprehensive Environmental Performance Assessment Scheme (CEPAS) was developed under a consultancy commissioned by BD. The Application Guidelines, Assessment Manuals and implementation proposal for CEPAS were submitted to PCICB in July 2005 for discussions on the way forward. • Having compared CEPAS with an existing assessment scheme, Hong Kong Building Environmental Assessment Method (HK-BEAM), PCICB decided to adopt HK-BEAM as the integrated assessment model for the local construction industry subject to various improvements including enhancing the administration framework of HK-BEAM, opening up qualification of HK-BEAM assessors and incorporation of the desirable features of CEPAS into HK-BEAM. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Committee to monitor implementation of the agreed improvement measures to HK-BEAM • The Committee to deliberate on promoting wider adoption of building environmental performance assessment.

Technology

Priority	Issue	Background	Follow Up Actions
High	4. CIRC R 64 - Establishment of a central construction standardization body in Hong Kong.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A consultancy study commissioned by the former Works Bureau on setting up of the CCSB was completed in 2000 and its financial viability was further investigated in another consultancy in 2001. • ETWB submitted a paper to PCICB in May 2003 proposing to establish the CCSB under CIC. • However, PCICB Members were inclined to concentrate on adoption/harmonization of construction standards. • In January 2006, PCICB discussed the paper of Construction Industry Institute – Hong Kong (CII-HK) reporting the major findings of a research study on construction standards and concluded the subject should be considered by CIC. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Committee to explore the way forward taking into account the findings of the consultancies and CII-HK's research.
Medium	5. CIRC R 72 and R 73 – Co-ordination of construction research and development.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In 2004, the PCICB Task Force on Construction Research and Development (R&D) took stock of the funding mechanisms and co-ordination frameworks adopted by a number of key industry organizations and formulated a framework for co-ordination of construction R&D for implementation by CIC. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Committee to follow up on the implementation of the co-ordination framework.

Priority	Issue	Background	Follow Up Actions
Medium	6. Establishment of performance indicators for the construction industry.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A proposal for performance indicators was formulated through a consultancy commissioned by ETWB and undertaken by Davis Langdon & Seah (DLS). • The first stage of the proposal based on existing data applicable to the whole industry was launched in 2004. • The second stage involving collection of data for gauging the performance of individual projects was held in abeyance since PCICB was not in favour of the model recommended by DLS. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Committee to consider the need and way forward for launching the second stage for gauging the performance of individual projects.