

**Minutes of the 2nd Meeting of the
Construction Industry Council
held on 21 March 2007 at 2:30 p.m.
in Room 1201, Murray Building, Garden Road, Central**

Present

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| Mr Keith Kerr | Chairman |
| Mr Russell Black | |
| Mr James Blake | |
| Dr Andrew Chan | |
| Mr T T Cheung | |
| Mr James Chiu | |
| Mr C W Choi | |
| Mr Thomas Ho | |
| Prof J M Ko | |
| Mr Edgar Kwan | |
| Mr Thomas Kwok | |
| Mr W H Lam | |
| Mr Peter Lee | |
| Mr S S Lee | |
| Mr M H Poon | |
| Mr Eric Tse | |
| Mr K S Wan | |
| Mr Conrad Wong | |
| Mr Billy Wong | |
| Mr C K Mak | Permanent Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works (Works) (PSW) |
| Ms Ada Fung | Deputy Director (Development & Construction), Housing Department |
| Mr C K Au | Deputy Director of Buildings, Buildings Department |
| Miss Janet Wong | Deputy Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works (Works) 1 |
| Mr Helius Ng | Deputy Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works (Works) 2 (Ag.) |
| Mr David Tong | Principal Assistant Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works (Works) 4 |
| 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 |
| Ms Cindy Kwan | Assistant Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works (Policy and Development) |

Absent with Apologies

Mr Francis Bong
Ms Teresa Cheng
Mr Michael Green

**Agenda Item 1: Confirmation of Minutes of the 1st Meeting held
on 9 March 2007**

Subject to deletion of the 2nd sentence from paragraph 15 of the draft minutes and a few minor amendments, the minutes were approved.

Agenda Item 2: Matters Arising

2. On the minutes of the last meeting, the meeting noted that
 - (a) paragraph 21- SETW had approved the transfer of funds of \$1M from CITA for meeting the initial expenditure of CIC;
 - (b) paragraph 22- the Secretariat would seek the assistance of the Chairmen of CIC and its Committees for opening the bank account of CIC; and
 - (c) paragraph 24- Mr Jack Chan reported that ED/CITA had suggested the briefings for CITA staff be scheduled tentatively on 11 and 12 April and he invited interested Members to join the Secretariat at the briefings.

[Post-meeting note: The briefing for CITA staff was subsequently held at 4:45 p.m., on 16 April 2007 at the CITA Management Training and Testing Centre in Aberdeen. Apart from staff from the CIC Secretariat, Mr Billy Wong also attended.]

**Agenda Item 3: Major Areas of Concerns of the six CIC
Committees**
[Paper No. CIC/008]

3. Following Mr K H Tao's introduction on major areas of concern and priorities to be accorded to different tasks of the respective Committees, Members expressed the following views:

- (a) Construction Site Safety – Members agreed with the proposed tasks. In view of the growing stock of tall buildings, a Member suggested that a higher priority be accorded to incorporation of relevant features in the design and installations of buildings to enhance safety of future repair and maintenance works.
- (b) Procurement – Responding to a Member's concerns regarding the potential implications of the use of prefabricated units on the local construction work force, the Chairman indicated that the model and extent of their use could be discussed at this Committee.
- (c) Subcontracting – A Member observed that non-value adding subcontracting was still prevalent and suggested that priority be accorded to tackle the problem. Another Member suggested that the performance of subcontractors should be improved through the provision of relevant training and guidance.
- (d) Environment and Technology –
 - (i) Members concurred that the Committee should initially accord higher priority to sustainable construction, as part and parcel of sustainable development, and defer discussions on conservation and heritage to a later stage;
 - (ii) A Member commented that the Committee should maintain dialogue and synchronize its work with other concerned advisory bodies falling under purview of different government bureaux and departments. Miss Janet Wong reported that the ETWB had previously touched base with the Secretariat of the Council on Sustainable Development (CSD) and was given to understand that CSD would welcome proposals from CIC in due course. Another member suggested that

CIC should focus on offering technical and expert inputs for formulation of policies on sustainability; and

- (iii) A Member suggested that the Committee should liaise with HK-BEAM Society to monitor the implementation of the suggested enhancements of and incorporation of desirable features into the HK-BEAM, and render support as necessary.

(e) Manpower Training and Development –

- (i) A Member suggested that the Committee should facilitate the industry in capitalizing on the opportunities arising from CEPA as well as the developments in the Mainland and Macau. He also commented that an analysis could be conducted on the profiles of the local construction work force based on data collected through the registration system of construction workers. Another Member commented that consideration be given to the training of professional and technical construction personnel for them to work in the Mainland.
- (ii) A few Members commented that the Committee should develop a long term manpower strategy for better coping with the cyclical fluctuation of supply and demand of manpower in local and overseas construction markets;
- (iii) The Chairman suggested that priority be accorded to promote performance standards and develop skill sets of local work force for developing potential prospects of export of skilled labour and improving opportunities for deployment/ redeployment.
- (iv) A Member suggested that guidelines be provided for institutions/agencies providing training and certification services, particularly those concerning construction site safety matters; and
- (v) A Member expressed concerns about the difficulties encountered by workers specialized in a particular type of skill in their applications for registration as skilled workers under the Construction Workers Registration Ordinance. Mr C K Mak undertook to discuss the matter with the Construction Workers Registration Authority.

- (f) Administration and Finance – Members had no other suggestions to make on this particular aspect.

4. The meeting noted the high and medium-priority issues set out in the discussion paper as well as the different concerns expressed and suggestions made by Members which would be considered by the various Committees in drawing up their respective work plan.

**Agenda Item 4: Construction Workers Registration –
Background, Latest Progress and Proposed
Implementation Programme
[Paper No. CIC/009]**

5. In response to Members' enquiry, Mr David Tong pointed out that the Construction Workers Registration Authority (CWRA) was aware of the concerns regarding the proportion of registered general workers to registered skilled/semi-skilled workers and workers with single skill. CWRA had stepped up publicity to encourage experienced workers without the requisite qualification or workers with single skill to register as provisional skilled/semi-skilled workers and to attain full registration after taking relevant trade tests or specified training courses.

6. Members expressed concerns over the tight time frame before the deadline for an application for provisional registration and the difficulties encountered by workers in providing the necessary past records of relevant working experience. Members were also concerned about possible shortage of skilled or semi-skilled workers required for fulfilling the relevant tendering requirements of Government contracts by contractors and for supervision of registered general workers or overseas experts carrying out works under the respective trades on a construction site. In response, Mr Tong reassured that CWRA had already taken necessary steps to simplify the application procedures and secured the assistance of trade unions in certifying the necessary proof of working experience required for an application for provisional registration. Mr C K Mak remarked that relevant guidelines would be issued by CWRA to clarify on the scope of coverage of the registration system which was intended primarily for construction workers. Members noted that a meeting involving concerned parties, including Dr Hon Raymond Ho, was scheduled to discuss the relevant matters shortly.

7. The meeting took note of the proposed implementation schedule and publicity plan.

[End of the first part of the meeting which was open to the public.]