



CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

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“I am honoured to be appointed as the new Chairman of the Construction Industry Council (CIC) to lead the industry as it forges ahead with its development. It is my objective to leverage my extensive experience in Hong Kong’s construction industry, specifically in the area of technological innovation and the promotion of digital and innovative construction method, to lead the CIC in creating a more innovative, safer and stronger construction environment under the current challenging circumstances.”



I would like to express my sincere gratitude to our former Chairman, Mr. Chan Ka-kui, for his tireless efforts and leadership over the past six years in steering the Council to a number of outstanding achievements and laying a solid foundation for the Council's future work.

The enormous construction expenditure in the coming decade, coupled with the aging problem of the construction industry, brings dual challenges to the industry in Hong Kong. We must embrace innovation and technology, and at the same time revitalise the industry by attracting more young talents. In the coming years, my goal is to promote Hong Kong as the innovation and technology hub in the region, and even in Asia. We will strive to make Hong Kong the best smart city in Asia, and to create a better living environment for Hong Kong citizens through innovative construction technologies. Construction safety is my other focus to protect workers and elevate the public perception of the industry.

Braving the Challenges and Breaking Through Waves

In response to the pandemic's repeated hits, the CIC implemented a number of initiatives to ensure the industry is able to operate as efficiently and effectively as possible while navigating the disruptions created by the pandemic. To ensure the safety of frontline workers, the CIC has been actively encouraging workers to get their vaccination since 2021 and provides regular testing to intercept the virus' transmission chain in a timely manner. The construction industry also used innovative construction techniques, such as Modular Integrated Construction, to swiftly build the Penny's Bay Quarantine Centre and The North Lantau Hospital Hong Kong Infection Control Centre to in order to provide a safe environment for the increasing number of people required to undergo compulsory quarantine. As the fifth wave of the pandemic hit Hong Kong, the construction industry was ready to assist the government fight the pandemic by using innovative construction techniques to build community isolation facilities in a record time.

Innovation Fuels Future Development

In recent years, the construction industry has been under tremendous pressure in terms of manpower, productivity and safety. To alleviate these challenges, the CIC has been leading the industry to break new ground in using innovative technology and thinking out of the box as it works with the industry to develop a long-term and sustainable future.

Over the years, the CIC spared no effort in spearheading innovation in the industry to boost construction productivity. This year the CIC-managed Construction Industry Innovation and Technology Fund received an injection of \$1.2 billion from the Government's Budget which it will use to further drive industry innovation. We regularly review new applications of various innovative technologies to continuously improve areas such as productivity, construction quality, site safety and sustainability.

Digitalisation of the construction industry is one of the cornerstones driving Hong Kong's future development. During the year, CIC collaborated with international experts and key industry stakeholders to develop a "Construction Digitalisation Roadmap for Hong Kong". The application covers six high-value digital application areas including Smart Data Sharing, Smart Planning and Design, Smart Submission with BIM, Smart Offsite Fabrication and Delivery, Smart Site Management, and Smart Asset and Facility Management. In line with the Hong Kong Smart City Blueprint 2.0, we are actively promoting smart concepts and innovative technologies to facilitate the sustainable development of the construction industry.

Over the past few years, CIC has been promoting the industrialisation of construction and the use of innovative technology and digitalisation. Amongst the various applications, the Modular Integrated Construction (MiC) method introduced by the CIC has successfully been used in over 70 projects in Hong Kong. The industry also applied the experience gained in the early stage of the fight against the pandemic to rapidly build a number of anti-pandemic facilities using the MiC construction method. The overwhelming satisfaction of the quarantine centres raised the community's awareness of MiC and laid a solid foundation for MiC to be used in future development projects.

Looking ahead, we envisage that innovative building technologies such as MiC and digital building technologies will be widely used throughout Hong Kong, as it provides an ideal solution for long-term and sustainable development of the industry.

CIC is organising the triennial flagship event "Construction Innovation Expo 2022 (CI Expo)" this year. The event will include a four-day exhibition of innovative construction solutions and international conferences on various topics. It will also bring advanced construction technologies from around the world to Hong Kong and provide a platform for the industry to exchange ideas and explore more local and overseas business opportunities in the construction industry.

Professional Team in Unity

There are a number of major infrastructure projects coming up in Hong Kong, including the Northern Metropolis Development Strategy and the Lantau Tomorrow Vision projects, which brings exciting new opportunities for the industry. To meet the huge construction demand in Hong Kong over the next decade, the Government has allocated \$1 billion in the new Budget to boost manpower supply. The CIC hopes that this will increase the industry's productivity, raise its professional image and attract more talents to the industry.

The Hong Kong Institute of Construction will continue to provide training courses suitable for practitioners at all levels and introduce appropriate collaborative training programmes based on market conditions. For example, to address the industry's current manpower shortage problem, the Collaborative Training Scheme's "first-hire-then-train" approach is being expanded to attract new talents. Additionally, the CIC regularly reviews ways to upgrade workers' skills and to supplement its "professional" career development path. Programs include the Hong Kong Institute of Construction's series of courses for frontline workers and managers accredited at Levels 2, 3 and 4 of the Hong Kong Qualifications Framework. The Institute also signed a Memorandum of Intent with the Hong Kong Metropolitan University to explore the provision of part-time degree programmes with local universities. With a clear progression ladder, we hope to attract more talented young people to join the construction industry and become the industry's future backbone through programs to upgrade their skills and academic qualifications.



Unveil Our Way To The Future Together

Hong Kong is committed to achieving carbon neutrality by 2050. In 2017, CIC launched an annual initiative to promote sustainable development with the goal of helping the industry develop low-carbon and green buildings. The CIC Carbon Assessment Tool established in 2019 helps the industry to systematically measure the carbon footprint of building materials and construction processes, build a comprehensive carbon performance database for Hong Kong's built environment, and complement the Green Product Certification platform to assess the environmental performance of building construction materials. With the successful launch of the CIC Sustainable Finance Certification Scheme, CIC hopes to establish a common framework and a simple assessment system for the construction industry to support the development of more green construction projects in Hong Kong and the Greater Bay Area through utilizing sustainable finance tools thereby driving the pace of sustainable development in Hong Kong.

In addition, the CIC is committed to exploring new business opportunities in order to broaden the scope of industry's development. The Greater Bay Area is the future for world-class bay areas. It provides an excellent place for Hong Kong's construction industry and young people to advance their careers and excel in the future. Although the pandemic limited people's mobility to cross the border to the Greater

Bay Area, the CIC is continuing to assist the industry in exploring and establishing supply chain networks in the region. Currently, it is setting up a Greater Bay Area Liaison Office to provide a bridge between the industry and its construction partners in the Greater Bay Area. The CIC has also launched the Greater Bay Area Construction Development Platform to enhance communication and cooperation between local and Greater Bay Area's construction industry practitioners and to explore business opportunities for construction companies in the Greater Bay Area. The CI Expo to be held in December this year is expected to attract over 250 exhibitors and encourage business collaboration between local, the Greater Bay Area and overseas companies.

Finally, I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to all CIC members, committee members and staff for their dedication and commitment in carrying out their duties during this unprecedented pandemic. With the trust and support of the Development Bureau and the Hong Kong construction industry, I am confident that the CIC and everyone who is a part of the industry will ride out this storm together to create a better future for Hong Kong's construction industry.

Ir Thomas Ho

Chairman, Construction Industry Council
(Since 1 February 2022)

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