



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Construction Industry Jointly Fosters a Probity Culture

Hong Kong • 4 May 2023 - The Construction Industry Council (CIC), Development Bureau (DEVB) and the Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC) jointly launched the Building a Clean and Fair Construction Industry Through Collaboration Anti-Corruption Summit and Commitment to Action Agenda today. The event aims to promote the corruption prevention awareness and integrity management as well as building a probity culture in the construction industry.

The event, held at the CIC-Zero Carbon Park at Kowloon Bay with live streaming, attracted approx. 2,100 leaders, company directors, managerial staff and practitioners of the construction industry. Representatives of trade associations, professional bodies and trade unions pledged to comply with the Integrity Action Agenda to proactively combat corruption and illegal “referral fees”. The event also aimed to appeal to clients, consultants, contractors, professionals, specialist trade contractors, subcontractors and workers to support and implement corruption prevention measures such as probity provisions and to report corruption.

Ir Thomas HO, Chairman of the CIC, stated in his welcome remarks, “The city’s development in the coming 10 years was expected to create business opportunities to the tune of \$300 billion for the construction industry. However, a small group of people might be tempted to seek illegal gains in different positions. Industry leaders, heads of companies and managerial staff of construction projects should eliminate all loopholes which might lead to corruption and malpractices.” Ir HO added that the CIC has been working closely with the DEVB and the ICAC to “inject” corruption prevention “vaccine” into the construction industry and build a reputation for integrity so that practitioners would be able to share and enjoy achievements of the industry’s promising future.

Ms. Corinna WONG, Director of Community Relations of the ICAC, said at the event, “A clean and fair working environment for the construction sector will not only help retain technical talents but also effectively attract new comers, inject new impetus and create a sustainable future for Hong Kong’s construction industry. All stakeholders should further enhance the industry’s operation mechanism, implement the Integrity Management System, and strengthen practitioners’ corruption prevention awareness.” She called on the industry to actively participate in the Integrity Charter 2.0 and adopt the Integrity Management System by implementing integrity policies, integrity trainings and integrity risk management to enhance their capacity in resisting corruption and non-compliance.

Mr. Ricky LAI, Assistant Director of Corruption Prevention of the ICAC, hosted a panel discussion on corruption prevention and integrity management in the construction industry. Mr. LAI shared with participants the Integrity Management System, the Integrity

Charter 2.0 and ways to enhance the sector's corruption prevention awareness.

Ir Albert CHENG, Executive Director of the CIC, hosted a discussion session with the participation of Ms. Kate CHEUK, Principal Investigator of the Operations Department of ICAC, and Ms. Mary LAU, Executive Director of the ICAC's Hong Kong Business Ethics Development Centre, and key industry leaders. They shared with participants how to deter illegal conduct and ways to establish a probity culture in the construction industry. Companies were advised to recruit and supervise employees instead of relying on intermediary agencies, render full assistance to the ICAC in its investigation work, and enhance construction workers' corruption prevention awareness. To enhance participants' understanding of various corruption risks in the industry and related criminal liabilities, ICAC officers also shared some convicted cases in relation to illegal introduction fees.

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Mr Thomas HO, Chairman of the CIC said the CIC has been working closely with the DEVB and the ICAC to maintain integrity environment in the construction industry by adopting corruption prevention measures



Ms. Corinna WONG, Director of Community Relations of the ICAC emphasises the importance of integrity risk management in resisting corruption and non-compliance, and calls on the industry to actively participate in the Integrity Charter 2.0



Ir Albert CHENG, Executive Director of the CIC (middle), hosts a discussion session on how to deter illegal conduct and ways to establish a probity culture in the construction industry



Mr. Ricky LAI, Assistant Director of Corruption Prevention of the ICAC, hosts the panel discussion on corruption prevention and integrity management in the construction industry



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About the Construction Industry Council

The Construction Industry Council (CIC) was formed in 2007 under the Construction Industry Council Ordinance (Cap. 587). The CIC consists of a chairman and 24 members representing various sectors of the industry including employers, professionals, academics, contractors, workers, independent persons and Government officials.

The main functions of the CIC are to forge consensus on long-term strategic issues, convey the industry's needs and aspirations to the Government, provide professional training and registration services, and serve as a communication channel between the Government and the construction industry.

Please visit www.cic.hk for further details.