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Lots of Projects Insufficient Talents Construction Supervisors in Great Demand

Hong Kong • 12 July 2013 – With the various infrastructure projects and construction works being launched, the industry has an urgent demand for young construction talents with professional qualifications. Last year, the average starting salary of graduates from the Construction Industry Council "Construction Supervisor/Technician Programme" was around \$10,000 while the highest one earned \$12,000. The starting salary was indeed comparative to that of a university graduate. As the industry continues to boom, the employment situation is expected to be more favourable this year.

The "Construction Supervisor/Technician Programme" offered by the Construction Industry Council (CIC) is designed for youngsters with Secondary Six level to become professional construction supervisor through management and technical training. The Programme is divided into four streams: Building Construction, Civil Engineering, Building Services and Quantity Measurement. The training mode includes 18 months of training and 6 months of on-the-job practice. The programme is tuition-free and each trainee is entitled to receive a monthly allowance of \$2,800. Moreover, the programme includes studying for a Higher Diploma and those trainees with outstanding performance will receive special sponsorships and priority placements from employers.

In view of the strong demand of young construction professionals by contractors in recent years, over 90% of the graduates are receiving special sponsorships and employers are even willing to raise the starting salaries and fringe benefits to attract more young talents to pursue their careers in the industry.

The Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education (HKDSE) results will be announced soon. For those students who have not met the entry requirements for universities may consider attending the construction training courses to join the industry. Upon graduation, they can continue to pursue degree programmes, and through accumulating work experience and continuous education, they may also obtain professional qualifications and develop their careers in the engineering field.

The "Construction Supervisor/Technician Programme" will commence in early September and is now open for applications. Applicants should have obtained Level 2 or above in five subjects in HKDSE, including Chinese Language, English Language and Mathematics. For more details of the Programme, please visit CIC's website at <u>www.hkcic.org</u> or call 2100 9101.

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