

**Construction Industry Council**

**Committee on Environment and Technology**

Meeting No. 002/11 of the Committee on Environment and Technology for 2011 was held on 31 March 2011 (Thursday) at 2:30 pm at Hong Kong Construction Association, 16/F, 180 – 182 Hennessy Road, Wanchai, Hong Kong.

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Summary notes of the Committee on Environment and Technology (Com-ENT) Meeting No.002/11:

<b>Agenda Item</b>	<b>Paper</b>	<b>Major Resolutions/ Progress Highlights</b>
2.1	CIC/ENT/R/001/11	Confirmation of the Progress Report – Members of the Com-ENT confirmed the Progress Report CIC/ENT/R/001/11 of the meeting held on 13 January 2011.
2.2	---	Matters Arising from the Previous Meeting: (i) Minimising the number of construction-related cards – this issue was further discussed at the CIC Council meeting. Due to the technical constraints on consolidating different cards into one, alternative approaches such as legislative amendments or administrative measures would have to be explored. The Development Bureau would explore measures to reduce the number of cards alongside the amalgamation of the CIC and the Construction Workers Registration Authority. (ii) Guidelines on Trip Ticket System (TTS) for Disposal of Construction & Demolition (C&D) Materials – There were site supervisory personnel to man each exit from the site to ensure that every truck carrying C&D materials leaving the site would bear a duly completed CHIT or Disposal Delivery Form. By doing so, overloading trucks could be spotted.
2.3	---	Concrete Paving Units With Recycled Glass – Members received a presentation on the adoption of in works projects of the Highways Department. Stakeholders of the construction industry were

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		urged to use environmentally-friendly paving units in private works projects with a view to increasing the use of recycled materials while reducing waste glass. However. It was noted that the use of recycled materials in local works projects was limited. Recycled materials, unlike standard construction materials, would require approval of project consultants and such procedures could be time consuming and hinder the use of recycled materials. Members also noted that recycled glass had not been used in structural concrete. The use of environmentally-friendly paving units could be explored in the Research on River Sand Substitutes for Concrete Production and Cement Sand Mortar Production.
2.4	CIC/ENT/P/006/11	Research Proposal on Commitment towards Sustainable Urbanisation of Construction Industry in Hong Kong – Members considered that only part of the proposed research deserved pursuing whilst the subject was not the main priority of the Com-ENT. The proposed research did not receive strong support from Members and was declined.
2.5	CIC/ENT/P/007/11	Research Proposal on Review of the Current IT Applications in Hong Kong Construction Industry – Members considered the proposal was too brief and was not mature enough. Hence, the proposal was rejected. However, Members supported greater use of IT such as web-based project management tools and computer-aided design tools. Members viewed that more thought on the scope of study was necessary in order to come up with a study brief to address the needs of the construction industry on IT. Members considered that input from developers, consultants, contractors and government departments would be helpful to formulate a comprehensive research brief. The Chairman was requested to discuss with the Task Force on Research Activities if the matter could be deliberated at the Task Force.
2.6	CIC/ENT/P/008/11	Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) for Construction Industry – To expedite the work, Members supported publishing a set of initial KPIs for general use in 2012 while the study would be on-going

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		to improve the data structure and processing for future discussion and adoption. Members suggested categorising the KPIs into the following six areas for more focused presentation namely (i) Productivity; (ii) Health & Safety; (iii) Environment; (iv) Manpower; (v) Dispute Resolution and (vi) Volume of Construction Works. As to data collection, a Member advised that the Form GF527 was used by main contractors in the public sector construction projects for reporting monthly returns on site labour deployment and wage rates for construction works and any changes to the Form GF527 might have implications for contractors' reporting system and thus the resources and careful consideration would be necessary before implementation. The Secretariat should consult with the Labour Department and the Buildings Department in respect of data collection mechanisms before finalising the relevant KPIs. Another Member pointed out that indices calculated by the Census and Statistics Department might not be able to reflect the real situation. Some Members advised that at this initial stage, the Secretariat could make use of readily available data such as those already on the public domain for trend analysis considering that compiling new statistics would entail great resources.
2.7	CIC/ENT/P/009/11	Green Labels for Construction Materials – Members supported commissioning a research project to develop an industry-wide Green Building Product Labelling Scheme for the Hong Kong construction industry. The Secretariat was requested to revise the research brief and seek research funding from the Committee on Administration and Finance.
2.8	CIC/ENT/P/010/11	Research on Establishing a Hong Kong Based Carbon Labelling Framework for Construction Materials – Members took note of the progress of the research.
2.9	CIC/ENT/P/011/11	Research on River Sand Substitutes for Concrete Production and Cement Sand Mortar Production (Phase One) – Members agreed to reject the tenderer in view of the very high research fee proposed in its tender submitted on 27 January 2011. Given Members had concern on the use of crush fine

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		in high strength concrete, in the re-tendering exercise, tenderers should be requested to submit two proposals in respect of (a) study on cement sand mortar production only; and (b) study on both concrete production (in particular high strength concrete) and cement sand mortar production.
2.10	CIC/ENT/P/012/11	Task Force on Research Activities – Members took note of the Paper on the outcome of the Joint Environmental Workshop with the Environmental Committee of the HKCA.
2.11	CIC/ENT/P/013/11	Technical Seminar on Use of Prefabrication and Modularisation – The Technical Seminar would be jointly organised with the Hong Kong Institution of Engineers on 15 April 2011 at PolyU.
2.12	CIC/ENT/P/014/11 & CIC/ENT/P/015/11	Task Force on Adhesion Technologies for External Wall Tiles – Though members of the Task Force had different opinions regarding the draft review report on common and/or major causes of debonding or failure of wet-fixed external wall tiles in respect of the local climate in Hong Kong, Members considered that it was not necessary to have a consensus or a consolidated view on the review report. In view of the slippage in the study progress, Members suggested finalising the review report as soon as possible and starting the next stage of the research i.e. drafting of the study report. It was repeated that the research aimed to look into problems associated with the adhesion of external wall tiles and rendering from the perspective of (a) specification at the design stage; (b) workmanship during construction; and (c) inspection and testing for maintenance.
2.13	---	Any Other Business - Nil