

## Construction Industry Council

### Construction Workers Registration Board

Meeting No. 001/24 of the Construction Workers Registration Board (CWRB) was held on 27 March 2024 (Wednesday) at 2:30pm at Board Room, 29/F, Tower 2, Enterprise Square Five, 38 Wang Chiu Road, Kowloon Bay and via Video Conference.

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Summary Notes of the CWRB Meeting No. 001/24:

<b>Agenda Item</b>	<b>Paper</b>	<b>Major Resolutions/Progress Highlights</b>
1.1	CIC/CRB/M/004/23	<b>Confirmation of the Minutes of the Previous Meeting</b> Members confirmed the minutes of Meeting No. 004/23.
1.2		<b>Matters Arising from the Previous Meeting</b> Members took note of the progress on the matters arising from the previous meeting.
1.3	CIC/CRB/P/001/23 (for information)	<b>Construction Safety Related Work Report</b> (a) The Secretariat, in collaboration with the Chief Technical Superintendents of the Hong Kong Institute of Construction, hosted brainstorming meetings regarding electrical works and bamboo scaffolding with the Federation of Hong Kong Electrical & Mechanical Industries Trade Unions as well as Registered Specialist Trade Contractors Federation respectively. The objective of the meetings was to promote execution of safety measures and dynamic risk assessment among workers as well as to foster safety culture. The Secretariat is in progress following up Members' comments on the quick tips on electrical works and bamboo scaffolding booklets. Upon finalisation, the quick tips would be disseminated to the frontline personnel through the CIC's mobile apps and instant messaging groups among industry stakeholders.

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		<p>(b) The Secretariat was preparing a survey on the Smart Site Safety System and would gather pertinent data through on-site inspections.</p> <p>(c) To promote the importance of regular health check-ups and personal well-being among workers, the Secretariat conducted a promotional campaign to promote Medical Examination Scheme for Registered Construction Workers (MES) and provide basic medical examination services at three construction sites on a promotion truck from 20-22 March 2024. The three construction sites included 3rd Street, SkyCity, Chek Lap Kok, Hong Kong International Airport; No. 21 Yi Tung Road, Tung Chung; as well as No. 15 Nim Wan Road, Tuen Mun. Subsequent works include organizing on-site medical examinations within the permissible contract variation the existing medical examination service contract and preparing to tender for a new service contract for the provision of on-site medical examination service.</p> <p>(d) It was suggested to collaborate with contractors to enhance workers' awareness on healthy diet. For example, there may be joint selection of meal box options and suppliers, or gradual increase of more vegetarian meals, say at least once a week. Moreover the analysis and recommendations from the MES regarding overall health risks among workers would be shared among stakeholders.</p>
1.4	CIC/CRB/P/002/24 (for endorsement)	<p><b>Update of Additional Information in Construction Workers Registration Cards</b></p> <p>(a) Members acknowledged the inclusion of eight new training courses approved under the Construction Sites (Safety) Regulations offered by Hong Kong Institute of Construction as well as two new Silver Card Courses according to the Construction Site Safety Manual of the Development Bureau, to update the list of Additional Information. Once approved, these qualifications can be added to the Construction Workers Registration Cards.</p>

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		(b) According to Construction Workers Registration Ordinance, the update of Additional Information to the Construction Workers Registration Cards requires approval from the Secretary for Development via CIC and publish of notification on the CIC's website. The relevant proposal will be submitted for CIC's approval.
1.5	CIC/CRB/P/003/24 (for information)	<p><b>Report of Sub-committee on Data Analysis Meeting No. 001/24</b></p> <p>(a) As of February 2024, according to data expansion analysis, there were a total of 414,976 registered workers engaged in the construction industry.</p> <p>(b) According to the latest release from the Census and Statistics Department (18 March 2024), the unemployment rate in the construction industry for the period of December 2023 to February 2024 was 3.9%, which is similar to the range of unemployment rates during the era of top 10 infrastructure construction projects (3.3% to 5.4%). The latest release by the Census and Statistics Department (18 March 2024) showed that the underemployment rate in the construction industry was 3.6%, which was close to the lowest on record.</p>
1.6	CIC/CRB/P/004/24 (for information)	<p><b>Report of Sub-Committee on Workers Development and Welfare Meeting No. 001/24</b></p> <p>(a) The Secretariat has announced the awardees of the first batch of Construction Workers Professional Development Scheme (Development Scheme). After review, a total of 227 workers were awarded, with a total prize amount of approximately HKD 900,000. The Award Ceremony of Development Scheme will be held on 2 June 2024, aiming to highlight the professional accomplishments of these workers, while expressing gratitude to the construction companies for their support in fostering the professional development of the workers. Also, it provides a platform for the workers to exchange and share their personal experience in professional development.</p>

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		<p>(b) The Sub-committee approved the industry sponsorship for the 2024 Outstanding Registered Construction Workers Commendation Scheme (Commendation Scheme), which includes the support for the two signature initiatives, including the Development Scheme and Scholarship for Family Members of Registered Construction Workers. Through the sponsorship of the Commendation Scheme, it aims to involve and garner support from the industry in promoting professional development among workers and recognizing their contributions to the construction industry. The Secretariat has extended invitations to companies and organizations who provided sponsorship in 2023, developers, contractors, registered specialist trade contractors, as well as registered subcontractors to participate in the sponsorship program.</p> <p>(c) In alignment with the “Year of Safety” theme by the CIC, activities of the year will not only focus on well-being of workers and their families, but also aim to promote safety messages. The event plan of the “Construction Workers Festival” includes the set-up of a dedicated construction safety corner in the CIC Service Centre, distribution of informative construction safety giveaways, the organization of iHub Guided Tours, the award ceremony for the Development Scheme, the award ceremony for the Sponsorship for Family Members of Registered Construction Workers 2024, as well as a series of seminars focused on promoting safety practices for frontline practitioners.</p>
1.7	CIC/CRB/P/005/24 (for information)	<p><b>Report on Inspection and Enforcement</b></p> <p>(a) From January to March 2024, a total of 330 construction site inspections and a total of 424 workers’ daily attendance records (DAR) were checked.</p> <p>(b) From January to March 2024, a total of 26 summonses were issued. 38 summonses were resulted in convictions in court (including those summonses issued in 2023).</p>

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		(c) From January to March 2024, 5 seminars on “Designated Workers for Designated Skills” and “Construction Workers Registration System” (CWRS) were held to explain the requirements of the CWRO, introduce the CWRS and provide operational demonstrations.
1.8	Any Other Business - Brainstorm Discussion to Explore Practical Solutions and Applicable Technologies in Tackling the Critical Challenge of an Aging Workforce in the Construction Industry	<p>Members discussed potential solutions and innovative technologies to alleviate the severe issue of an aging workforce in the construction industry. The salient discussion points are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) Train workers to operate robots to enhance the efficiency of construction work.</li> <li>(b) Optimize on-the-job training to enhance the skills of workers.</li> <li>(c) Enhance the content of training courses to educate students on performing construction work in a mechanized manner.</li> <li>(d) Implement innovative processes and materials in the construction industry.</li> <li>(e) Improve site processes and facilities to enhance the productivity of workers.</li> <li>(f) Explore the provision of collaborative training opportunities for young co-workers, especially those engaged in similar trades, to foster cooperation and resource sharing culture among them.</li> </ul>