

Construction Industry Council

Meeting No. 005/12 of the Construction Industry Council for 2012 was held on Friday, 26 October 2012 at 2:30pm at Meeting Room 1, Construction Industry Council Headquarters, 15/F Allied Kajima Building, 138 Gloucester Road, Wan Chai, Hong Kong.

Present	:	Shing-see LEE	(SSL)	Chairman
		Andrew CHAN	(AC)	
		Siu-hung CHAN	(SHC)	
		Hau-wai CHEUNG	(HWC)	
		Tai-chong CHEW	(TCC)	
		Paul CHONG	(PC)	
		Thomas HO	(TH)	
		Jan-ming KO	(JMK)	
		Wo-hei LAM	(WHL)	
		Christopher LEUNG	(KYL)	
		Tak-ching MAK	(TCM)	
		Lawrence NG	(LN)	
		Kevin POOLE	(KP)	
		Koon-sun WAN	(KSW)	
		Bay WONG	(ByW)	
		Conrad WONG	(CW)	
		Mike WONG	(MW)	
		Wai-wai YU	(WWY)	
		Chi-sing WAI	(CSW)	Permanent Secretary for Development (Works)
		Choi-kai AU	(CKA)	Director of Buildings
		Ada FUNG	(AF)	for Permanent Secretary for Transport and Housing (Housing)
In Attendance	:	Charmaine WONG	(HWW)	Development Bureau
		Lionel LAU		Hong Kong Housing Authority
		Christopher TO	(CT)	Executive Director
		Charles WONG	(CWG)	Director – Training and Development
		Cheryl IP	(CI)	Senior Manager – Human Resources & Administration
		Katherine TAM	(OKT)	Senior Manager - Finance
		Ivan WONG	(IW)	Senior Manager - Council Services
		Shirley LEE	(SyL)	Manager – Council Services
Apologies		Teresa CHENG	(TC)	
		Luen-kiu CHOW	(LKC)	
		James KWAN	(JK)	
		Billy WONG	(BW)	

MINUTES

Open-door Session
Agenda Item

Action

[The open-door session of the meeting started at 4pm.]

**5.8 Confirmation of Minutes of the Previous Meeting
(Open-door Session)**

Members referred to Paper CIC/CMT/M/004/12 and approved the minutes of the open-door session of the 4th meeting for 2012 held on Friday, 31 August 2012 at Meeting Room 1, Construction Industry Council Headquarters, 15/F Allied Kajima Building, 138 Gloucester Road, Wan Chai, Hong Kong.

5.9 Matters Arising from the Previous Meeting (Open-door Session)

Matters arising from the previous meeting would be covered at the later part of the meeting.

5.10 3rd Meeting of Committee on Construction Site Safety for 2012

Members referred to Paper CIC/CMT/P/050/12 and received a brief report by HWC.

The following issues were highlighted:

- Item 3.3 – Subsequent to the publication of Volumes 1 and 2 of the Guidelines on Safety of Lift Shaft Works, a task group was formed for the drafting of Volume 3 to cover the relevant safety measures in a walk-through risk assessment approach to ensure the safety and health of workers and other parties engaged in the lift repair and maintenance works.
- Item 3.4 – The Task Force on Safety of Repair, Maintenance, Alterations and Additions (RMAA) Sites would study whether safety alerts or guidelines would be issued to address safety problems associated with RMAA works.
- Item 3.5 – Safety Alert No. 002/12 on “Safety Related Matters of Workers Engaging in Renovation and Repair Works (with the use of volatile organic compounds) in Commercial Premises” would be issued in due course.
- Item 3.6 – Safety Alert No. 001/12 on “Water Piping Layout Works – Pressure Test (Road Works)” was issued on 29 August 2012. Safety Alert No. 003/12 on “Prevention of Electrocution” was being prepared by the Informal Task Force on Site Safety

Open-door Session
Agenda Item

Action

Incidents in response to the recent fatal industrial accident.

- Items 3.7 - 3.9 – Chaired by AF, a Task Group on Implementation of Heat Stress Action Plan was established under the Task Force on Working in Hot Weather to deliberate the recommended measures proposed in the revised guidelines prepared by HKU.
- Item 3.10 – Four method statements were being drafted by the Task Force on Review of Major Construction Method Statements.
- Item 3.11 – The Task Force on Site Safety Training was soliciting views and comments from relevant stakeholders on the development of safety training courses.
- Item 3.15 (ii) – Key elements recommended by the Coroner’s Court in the letter of 31 August 2012 on the collapse of reinforcement steel cage had been included in the Safety Alert No. 001/11 on “Fabrication of Reinforcement Cages of Bored Piles”.
- Item 3.15 (iii) – Concerning the proposition of conducting overseas visits to broaden the view of Committee Chairmen and Members on issues of common interest and concern to the industry, Members agreed that the relevance of study tour, international conferences or exhibitions to the duties, functions or work of the committees should be taken into consideration. Instead of organising routine visits overseas each year, each proposed overseas visit would be considered on a case-by-case basis and would limit participation to no more than 3 committee members at the same time. According to Council’s policy, travel application submitted by CIC Members would be reviewed and approved by the Chairman of the CIC.

On the same subject, a Member proposed that the expertise and experience gained from overseas visits could be shared with respective committees or uploaded to CIC’s web site. TCC was delighted to share the information and knowledge with the Committee on Construction Site Safety after his staff had completed the 2-day course on underground health and safety organised by British Tunnelling Society on 26 – 27 November 2012.

Members had no comments on other items in Paper CIC/CMT/P/050/12.

Open-door Session

Action

Agenda Item

5.11 **4th Meeting of Committee on Environment and Technology for 2012**

Members referred to Paper CIC/CMT/P/051/12 and received a brief report by WWY.

The following issues were highlighted:

- Item 4.2 (i) – Upon approval of the Chinese version of the report at the upcoming committee meeting in November 2012, the Study Report of Research on Adhesion Technologies for External Wall Tiles would be published.
- Item 4.2 (ii) – The Task Force on Schematic Design for Application of RFID, GPS and Sensor Technology in Monitoring the Movement of Construction Waste had been formed. The task force would be chaired by Mr. Simon Wong, CEO of Hong Kong R&D Centre for Logistics and Supply Chain Management Enabling Technologies.
- Item 4.3 – Subsequent to the presentation on “Product Certification for Construction Materials” delivered by Hong Kong Accreditation Service, Housing Authority was invited to share its experience in adopting construction product certification at the next committee meeting. To clarify an issue discussed at the last committee meeting, only reinforcement, not all materials, in the UK was exempted from site testing if the product was certified.

Relating to this subject, Chairman declared interest at the meeting that he was the convener of the panel on promoting testing and certification services in construction materials trade set up under the Hong Kong Council for Testing and Certification. With no comment from Members, Mr. SS Lee stayed and continued to chair the meeting.

- Item 4.4 – The final report of the research on river sand substitutes for concrete production and cement sand mortar production (phase one) was being prepared by Professor Albert Kwan of the University of Hong Kong. The report would be reviewed by the task force before submitting to the committee for endorsement.

Members had no comments on other items in Paper CIC/CMT/P/051/12.

Open-door Session
Agenda Item

Action

5.12 **3rd Meeting of Committee on Procurement for 2012**

Members referred to Paper CIC/CMT/P/052/12 and received a brief report by TCC.

The following issues were highlighted:

- Items 3.3 & 3.4 – The Task Force on Competition Law reviewed the Competition Ordinance to see if the views and concerns raised by the CIC to the Bills Committee were addressed. The Task Force would put together a fact sheet or an article in the CIC newsletter to introduce the Competition Ordinance to the industry. Furthermore, a technical forum would be organised to enhance stakeholders' knowledge and understanding of the Ordinance, in particular to those small and medium-sized contractors.

- Item 3.5 – The Task Group on NEC3 Collaborative Contracts would prepare a frequently asked question handbook or fact sheet to enhance stakeholders' knowledge and understanding of NEC3 as a form of collaborative contracts.

Despite the fact that NEC had not been used extensively in government contracts, DEVB advised that it was now being used in medium-sized public works contracts. It was estimated that some public works contracts, with a total contract sum of HK\$8 billion would be using NEC as a form of collaborative contracts in the coming three years.

AF updated that after reviewing the features of NEC3, Housing Authority had been developing a new set of contract conditions which would incorporate the good features of the current contract with contractual partnering and dispute resolution advisor system as well as some of the special attributes of NEC3.

Considered as a step in the right direction, TCC echoed that MTRC was moving forward with trial adoption of NEC3.

For Members' information, the Olympic Delivery Authority was invited to share with participants the successes and challenges of using the NEC3 on London 2012 Olympics at the Inaugural NEC Asia Pacific Users' Group Conference to be held on 21 November 2012.

- Item 3.6 – The Task Force on the Selection of Consultants and Contractors had identified a technical writer to carry out the editing and redrafting work of the draft Guidelines on the Selection of Consultants.
- Item 3.7 – Com-PCM endorsed the formation of a new Task

Open-door Session
Agenda Item

Action

Force on Employer-Procured Insurance Policies in Construction Contracts. Invitation had been sent to organisations in the endorsed membership list for nomination of members. The progress would be reported to the committee early next year.

- Item 3.8 – Com-PCM endorsed the formation of a new Ad-hoc Working Group on Procurement Factsheets. Invitation had been sent to organisations in the endorsed membership list for nomination of members.

Members had no comments on other items in Paper CIC/CMT/P/052/12.

5.13 5th Meeting of Committee on Subcontracting for 2012

Members referred to Paper CIC/CMT/P/053/12 and received a brief report by MW.

The following issues were highlighted:

- Item 5.5 – In response to the diverse opinion from committee members, an Informal Working Group on Review of Specification of Variable Remuneration in Specimen Employment Contract would be organised to review and discuss how the variable remuneration could be properly specified in the specimen employment contract. Major stakeholders from various sectors, including employer, main contractor, sub-contractor, worker union and Labour Department would be invited to join the informal working group as members. A Member remarked that making reference to the reference wage rates announced by related labour unions would be useful.
- Item 5.6 – A series of promotional events and activities would be organised to promote the launching of Subcontractor Registration Scheme, which would take effect on 1 January 2013.
- Item 5.11 – Follow up on item 4.2 under Agenda Item 5.2 afore-mentioned, ByW was nominated as a member of the Special Group on Unfair Contract Terms.

Members had no comments on other items in Paper CIC/CMT/P/053/12.

Open-door Session
Agenda Item

Action

5.14 Any Other Business

- i. In consideration of a Member's suggestion on setting up a permanent office for CIC, the following opinions and comments were given at the meeting:
- An in-depth review and assessment of the Council's short and long-term financial stability as well as cost-effectiveness of acquiring a permanent office should be conducted;
 - Considering the current labour shortage in Hong Kong's construction industry, resources allocated to manpower training, site safety and construction productivity should be more critical.

The Secretariat would conduct some analysis and report back to the Council in due course.

**CIC
Secretariat**

- ii. The Brainstorming Workshop for Construction Manpower Study was jointly organised by DEVB and CIC on 24 October 2012 to update stakeholders on the consultancy study on manpower forecast conducted by the City University of Hong Kong.

5.15 Tentative Date of Next Meeting 006/12

The next meeting was scheduled for 14 December 2012 (Friday) at 2:30pm at Meeting Room 1, Construction Industry Council Headquarters, 15/F Allied Kajima Building, 138 Gloucester Road, Wan Chai, Hong Kong.

All to note

There being no further business, the open-door session of the meeting was adjourned at 4:45pm.

********End of the Open-door Session********