

**Minutes of 7th Meeting of
Construction Industry Council
held on 20 December 2007 at 2:30 p.m.
in Room 1201, Murray Building, Garden Road, Central**

Present

Mr Keith Kerr	Chairman
Mr James Blake	
Mr Francis Bong	
Dr Andrew Chan	
Ms Teresa Cheng	
Mr T T Cheung	
Mr James Chiu	
Mr CHOI Chun-wa	
Mr Thomas Ho	
Prof J M Ko	
Mr Thomas Kwok	
Mr W H Lam	
Mr Peter Lee	
Mr S S Lee	
Mr TSE Chun-yuen	
Mr WAN Koon-sun	
Mr Conrad Wong	
Mr C K Mak	Permanent Secretary for Development (Works)
Mr H W Cheung	Director of Buildings
Ms Ada YS Fung	Deputy Director (Development & Construction), Housing Department
Miss Janet Wong	Deputy Secretary for Development (Works) 1
Mr Enoch Lam	Deputy Secretary for Development (Works) 2
Mr Jack Chan	Principal Assistant Secretary for Development (Works) 1
Mr K H Tao	Chief Assistant Secretary for Development (Works) 1
Mr Solomon Wong	Assistant Secretary for Development (Public Works Systems Administration) 1

Absent with Apologies

Mr Russell Black
Mr Michael Green
Mr Edgar Kwan
Mr Billy Wong

Agenda Item 1: Confirmation of Minutes of the 6th Meeting held on 15 November 2007

The revised minutes were circulated to Members on 18 December 2007 and were confirmed without further amendments.

Agenda Item 2: Matters Arising

2. Members noted the following matters arising from minutes of the last meeting –

(a) Paragraph 5

Design and build contracts would be discussed at the next meeting of the Committee on Procurement;

(b) Paragraph 14

The Committee on Environment and Technology had an informal discussion on 12 December 2007 with the HK-BEAM Society and exchanged views on the way forward for establishing an independent entity for the promotion of green buildings in Hong Kong;

(c) Paragraph 16

The programme and estimates for CIC for 2008 would be discussed under agenda item 10;

Agenda Item 3: 3rd Progress Report of Committee on Manpower Training and Development [Paper No. CIC/052]

3. The Committee was briefed at the 3rd meeting held on 12 December 2007 on the scope, programme and deliverables of a consultancy commissioned by DEVB in August 2007 to formulate a strategy for developing local professional resources. In response to DEVB's invitation, Mr Francis Bong was nominated by the Committee to represent CIC on the advisory group for the study. The Committee also endorsed the framework for

conducting a manpower survey on construction technicians and workers to be commissioned by the future Construction Industry Council Training Academy (CICTA).

Agenda Item 4: 4th Progress Report of Committee on Construction Site Safety [Paper No. CIC/053]

4. The Committee endorsed at its 4th meeting held on 14 December 2007 the preliminary recommendations of the Informal Task Force on Permanent Safety Features proposing gondolas, service platforms and permanent anchorage points as safety features for incorporation into the design of new buildings to enhance the safety of repair, maintenance, alteration and addition (RMAA) works carried out on external walls. The Task Force would further discuss with industry stakeholders the implementation issues (such as gross floor area exemption for service platforms and design standards for permanent anchorage points) with a view to finalizing the recommendations in due course. While the recommendations would apply primarily to new buildings, the incorporation of the safety features in existing buildings (particularly in connection with major renovations) should be encouraged.

Secretariat

5. Members agreed that CIC would write to the Labour and Welfare Bureau proposing that favourable consideration be given to bids for financial and staff resources which might be made by LD for taking forward the suggestion made by the Committee to strengthen LD's staff establishment for taking enforcement actions in relation to RMAA works so as to cope with the additional workload resulting from the ageing of buildings and the Mandatory Building Inspection Scheme being taken forward by BD.

Secretariat

6. BD would make a presentation at the next CIC meeting on the Buildings (Amendment) Bill which was introduced into the Legislative Council in November 2007 for implementing the Minor Works Control System. CIC would consider how best to advocate for early enactment of the bill after considering the details.

BD

7. The Informal Task Force on Tower Crane was consulting industry stakeholders on the practice notes for improving the safety of tower crane operation with a view to submitting the draft to CIC for endorsement in due course. The Task Force on Working in Hot Weather had agreed on the outline for developing a set of guidelines

Secretariat

on the safety measures for working in hot weather.

8. The Informal Task Force on Behavioural Aspects of Site Safety held the 1st meeting on 30 November 2007 and concluded that behaviour would have profound impact on safety performance and that this aspect should be further explored in relation to ways for shaping behaviour of construction personnel, quantitative assessment of level of safety culture, communication between management and workers, recognition of workers' contribution to project delivery and impact of job security. To this end, the Task Force visited a public housing site on 20 December 2007 and would follow up on the issues identified through discussions with subcontractors and workers including the mandating of silver card training and streamlining and consolidation of the multitude of registration cards that workers had to hold in order to satisfy statutory and contractual requirements.

Secretariat

9. Given the proven effectiveness of the Pay for Safety Scheme (PFSS) in enhancing the safety performance of both public and private sector contracts, Members supported the Committee's proposal for CIC to write to industry stakeholders, in particular developers, contractors and professionals, encouraging them to adopt PFSS in private sector contracts. A separate letter would also be issued to the Hong Kong Federation of Insurers (HKFI) asking HKFI to request its members to consider taking adoption of PFSS into account in assessing insurance premium so as to provide financial incentive for the scheme. BD would consider issuing a practice note to encourage voluntary adoption of PFSS in private building projects.

Secretariat

BD

Agenda Item 5: 5th Progress Report of Committee on Environment and Technology [Paper No. CIC/054]

10. The Committee discussed at its 5th meeting held on 6 December 2007 CIC's role in construction research and development (R&D) and reached the consensual view that CIC should encourage innovations in the industry by taking charge of the overall co-ordination of research efforts. In this regard, one of the possible options would be for CIC to play a matching role by taking stock of the research requirements of the industry and identifying suitable organizations which would be prepared to undertake R&D in response to these requirements using their own resources. CIC could also play a useful role in co-ordinating the

conversion of the deliverables of research projects into practical references (such as guidelines, specifications and codes of practice) that could be used readily by industry stakeholders. Consideration should also be given to making allocations in the annual budgets for financing R&D so that CIC could take the lead in nurturing a culture for innovations. On institutional framework, the Committee would be responsible for policy formulation and overall steering of R&D efforts. The day-to-day execution would be full-time tasks to be entrusted to the staff of the permanent CIC Secretariat.

11. Members generally agreed with the framework proposed by the Committee in particular the assignment of the day-to-day co-ordination of R&D to CIC staff. Further details of the co-ordination mechanism, including the procedures for dealing with the research projects initiated by other CIC Committees, would be developed progressively in future. Meanwhile, the Committee would attempt to identify the research initiatives that would be required for serving the practical needs of the local construction industry and formulate strategy for taking them forward.

Secretariat

**Agenda Item 6: Publicity Materials for Amalgamation of
CIC and CITA
[Paper No. CIC/055]**

12. Members endorsed the artworks for the posters, advertisements and pamphlets for publicizing the amalgamation of CIC and CITA subject to minor textual amendments. The Secretariat would arrange for production of the publicity materials and placing of advertisements.

Secretariat

**Agenda Item 7: Code of Conduct for Members of CIC
and Its Committees
[Paper No. CIC/056]**

13. Members endorsed the proposed Code of Conduct for Members of CIC and its Committee. On the disclosure of information, given the difficulties of giving exhaustive definition for privileged and confidential information, CIC Members would have to use their judgment to determine on the merits of individual cases whether certain information acquired through CIC deliberations should be disclosed. The sunshine test for the acceptance of advantages offered to Members in their private capacity could

Action by

provide useful guidance in making such assessment.

All to note

14. On paragraph (III)(1) of the Code of Conduct, the Secretariat would clarify with ICAC on whether co-opted members of CIC Committees were public servants governed by section 4 of the Prevention of Bribery Ordinance. On paragraph (III)(4), under the CIC Ordinance, Members were required to make declarations when matters in which they had interests were considered at meetings of CIC and its Committees but were not required to make periodic declarations.

Secretariat

All to note

Agenda Item 8: Any Other Business

15. There being no other business, the open-door session was declared closed.

******End of Open-Door Session******

**CIC Secretariat
February 2008**