

# CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE





As a practitioner in the construction industry, I feel it is our collective responsibility to shape a future where the construction industry thrives and leaves a positive and lasting impact on society. By championing sustainable construction methods, prioritising safety, leveraging digitalisation, attracting and empowering a young and diverse workforce, and embracing new technologies throughout the building life-cycle, we not only ensure the long-term success of our industry but also contribute to the well-being of our communities and the health of our planet.



Ir Prof. Thomas HO

Chairman, Construction Industry Council

### 2023: Year of Progress

Reflecting on the year 2023, it was a year of progress during which Construction Industry Council (CIC) has made enhancements that we hope will have far-reaching benefits in the industry and in our communities. As the Chairman of the Construction Industry Council, I had the privilege of witnessing remarkable sustainability development, technological advancements and advocating their applications within the construction industry, spearheading a new era of progress and innovation. These advancements included the integration of artificial intelligence (AI), high productivity construction methods, robotics technology, Building Information Modelling (BIM) and digitalisation of the total life-cycle construction process.

### Leading the Transformation

As we reflect on the achievements of 2023, it is evident that the CIC has solidified its leadership position in steering technological advancements within the construction industry. Our commitment to Modular Integrated Construction (MiC), digitalisation, holistic robotic construction, and sustainability has yielded remarkable results. These achievements have not only enhanced efficiency, safety, and quality in construction projects but have also refreshed the image of our industry.

In this transformative year, I have witnessed many of the above significant changes and the benefits of their widespread applications brought to the industry, and a list of firsts at the CIC over the past year. We proudly inaugurated the Workshops on Construction Robots,

showcasing 20 ready-to-market robots that have proven invaluable in overcoming site work challenges across various construction stages. Our effort in promoting applications of construction robots has yielded impressive results in expediting the construction process with enhanced safety measures.

To promote digitalisation throughout the building life-cycle, from design to build and asset management, we launched the first Digital Twin Hub (DT Hub), serving as a collaborative platform, an educational platform and technological showcase for knowledge exchange, talent development, and innovation in the digital twin and construction technology realm. Master Classes on different technologies and solutions were also conducted for management level practitioners, such as Digital Twin, BIM, MiC, AI for Construction, Design for Safety and Safety Leadership Culture. These classes aimed to equip industry professionals with the knowledge and skills necessary to embrace technological advancements and drive sustainable practices, building a pool of new generation talent for our industry.

We successfully hosted the Forum of China ConTech Development and the Future of Hong Kong Construction Industry, fostering fruitful collaboration between construction industries in Mainland China and Hong Kong. Our achievement was also bolstered by the official inauguration of the Representative Office of CIC (HK) in Guangdong, helping the CIC to reach further in the Greater Bay Area (GBA) and build a comprehensive construction supply chain to support the “golden era” of Hong Kong.

In 2023, CIC spearheaded several initiatives to promote digitalisation and sustainability in the industry. We organised various competitions and awards to encourage the adoption of new construction technologies and discover emerging talents, including the CIC BIM Competition 2023, the Hong Kong Construction Common Data Environment (CDE) Award 2023, and the CIC Sustainable Construction Award 2023. We also actively sourced innovative technologies and advocated for their implementation to enhance the quantity, speed, efficiency, and the quality in construction projects.

As we look into the future, we remain steadfast in our dedication to driving further innovation, excellence, and sustainable practices within the construction industry.

### Securing Safety

Ensuring workers' safety is always our key priority at all levels within the CIC. We believe in ensuring the well-being of our workers and have implemented various measures to promote a culture of safety. We continue to reach out to different construction sites and companies in Hong Kong, Mainland China, and overseas to learn and share best practices and cultivate a culture of safety.

A pilot scheme for the wider adoption of Design for Safety (DfS) in the industry has been rolled out by the CIC. We are pleased to have garnered interest from a number of developers who recognised the value of integrating safety considerations into the design process as well as implemented a safety morning assembly routine to let frontline workers build up a safety habit. Additionally, in collaboration with the Development Bureau, we co-organised the Construction Safety Week among many other safety initiatives targeting practitioners of all levels to promote zero-accident site environment and highlight exemplary safety performance efforts in the industry, and eventually promote a deep-rooted sense of safety among all practitioners.

However, we acknowledge that there is still work to be done. We understand that safety is not just about rules and regulations; it is a culture, a behaviour, and an attitude. We are determined to change the bad habits within the industry and have been working diligently towards this goal which requires collective effort from the industry to drive continuous improvements.

### Spearheading Sustainability

Today, we stand at a critical crossroads. Building a sustainable future starts with recognising the urgent need for change. The construction industry accounts for 36% of worldwide energy usage and 40% of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. It's our responsibility and duty to turn things around. By unleashing sustainable construction practices, prioritising safety, harnessing digitalisation, attracting a young workforce, and embracing new technologies in the building life-cycle, we can embark on the transformation of the construction industry into a force for positive change.

In collaboration with the Development Bureau, we organised the prestigious CIC Global Construction Sustainability Forum and Exhibition (GCSFE). This four-day event brought together 40 worldwide speakers and 40 exhibitors, attracting over 10,000 physical and online visitors. This international business gathering served as a pivotal knowledge-sharing platform, fostering collaboration and accelerating progress towards sustainable development goals.

To further advance sustainable development, we have rallied more than 160 industry leaders who have pledged towards the "Sustainable Construction Charter". These companies will commit to designing, constructing and operating buildings and infrastructure facilities with the vision of achieving carbon neutrality by 2050 in Hong Kong. They will develop a decarbonisation roadmap with measurable targets, promote site decarbonisation measures, such as reducing construction waste, and establish corporate ESG governance mechanisms in the organisation. Very importantly, efforts will be devoted to enhancing manpower resources, workers' safety and community well-being.

Recognising the importance of sustainable development and environmental stewardship, we led by example and established the Smart Facilities Management Control Centre, which effectively monitored the ESG performance, carbon footprint, and sustainable development of CIC's premises. The Centre plays a pivotal role in rallying collaborative efforts from the industry in working towards achieving carbon neutrality and we are pleased to see that a number of property management corporations have started to adopt digitalised facilities management procedures and establish their own smart facilities management control centres.

Entering 2024, our determination to secure a sustainable future in the construction industry remains steadfast. Guided by the goal of carbon neutrality outlined in Hong Kong's Climate Action Plan 2050, we are determined to embrace green procurement practices, promoting green finance, integrating low-carbon materials, pledging carbon neutrality throughout construction phases, and adopting circular construction principles are crucial steps towards sustainability.

## Cultivating Talent

The CIC has been committed to addressing shortage of skilled workers and working towards attracting more young talent to join our industry. Over the past year, the “Design for Future, Build for Life” industry-wide PR campaign continues to enhance students’ interest in joining the construction sector and to refresh public’s perception on the industry, projecting a young, energetic, professional, digitalised and future-focused image. A series of promotions including TV Announcements in the Public Interest (API), mega billboards, pan-city roadshow and Master Talks for students were rolled out.

Our commitment to developing youth talents in the construction industry is also reflected in the establishment of the CIC Youth Affairs Committee (CICYAC) and including young practitioners’ voices in our committees. Our long-term strategic action aims to create a sustainable pipeline of young professionals who will shape the future of our industry. We have made significant progress in attracting young people to the construction sector with the first Construction Industry Youth Greater Bay Area Exchange Programme for students from Hong Kong, providing them with first-hand experience of the construction industry in the region and its prospect. Building on this success, this year we are planning to extend the programme to include participants from the GBA, strengthening regional collaboration.

To recognise the contributions and achievements of young construction practitioners, we also continued the Construction Industry Outstanding Young Person Awards (CIOYPA) and the 2nd Hong Kong Construction Skills Competition, honouring practitioners of all ages from different professions and trades for their outstanding accomplishment and organised the CIC Young Construction Forum where students had the opportunity to interact with industry leaders, further igniting their passion for our field.

To cultivate and inspire future talents in construction innovation, we established the STEAM Lab at the CIC-Zero Carbon Park (CIC-ZCP). This groundbreaking initiative is the first of its kind in Hong Kong, combining STEAM education with a construction theme, nurturing the next generation of construction innovators.

## Community and Industry

At CIC, we place great importance on community engagement and fostering a sense of unity. One of our key initiatives is the Construction Industry Sports & Volunteering Programme (CISVP), which promotes a caring and healthy culture within our industry and beyond. Through CISVP events, we encourage industry professionals to actively participate in volunteer activities, such as organising the Lo Pan Service Month and host blood donation, shoreline cleaning and Lo Pan Rice distribution activities. Witnessing the impact of our actions first-hand greatly reinforced our commitment to making a meaningful difference. These initiatives embody the spirit of giving and utilising our construction skills to assist those in need.

## Building a Safe and Sustainable Future

Our engagement with the GBA will continue to play a vital role to allow Hong Kong construction industry to leverage on its distinctive advantages of enjoying strong support of the Motherland and being closely connected to the world. Through site visits and exchange activities, we have witnessed the immense technological advancements in the GBA. In line with Hong Kong’s strategic positioning, the CIC together with our fellow industry members will continue to play the role of “super connector” and “super value adder” to facilitate the exchange between Hong Kong, the GBA and the world, harnessing growth opportunities through complementarity and integration with our GBA counterparts to bring the cutting-edge technologies back to Hong Kong as well as exporting to the world.

Finally, I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to all CIC members, committee members and staff for their dedication and commitment in carrying out their duties with utmost dedication. With the trust and support of the Development Bureau and the Hong Kong construction industry, I am confident that the CIC and the industry will be ready for the golden decade for a better Hong Kong.

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