

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CIC Welcomes the Continual Support of Government

Hong Kong • 2 February 2012 – In the 2012-13 Budget, the Financial Secretary earmarked an additional funding of \$220 million to support the Construction Industry Council (CIC) to further enhance training for prospective fresh blood and in-service construction personnel in order to meet the anticipated manpower demand for infrastructure development in the future.

CIC welcomes the additional funding of \$220 million from the Government, which reinforces the strong commitment and ensures a firmer foundation for the construction manpower development. Mr. LEE Shing-see, Chairman of the CIC says, “CIC welcomes the measures proposed by Government and will render its full support to cope with the manpower demand of the construction industry through providing more training places and will facilitate job matching of the graduates through our ‘Construction JobsNet’.”

Background

In May 2010, the Government sought the approval of Finance Committee of Legislative Council for a \$100 million funding to support the CIC to enhance training and trade testing for prospective fresh blood and in-service construction personnel, and to enhance promotion and publicity activities to attract more people to join the industry. Not less than \$80 million is allocated for reimbursing the CIC of training allowances and trade testing and course fees benefiting trainees and workers. The remaining funds will be used to enhance promotion and publicity activities to attract more people to join the construction industry.

CIC launched the Build Up Training Programme in September 2010 by phases, with the following initiatives:-

- a. Enhanced Construction Manpower Training Scheme (ECMTS);
- b. Senior Construction Workers Trade Management Course;
- c. Subsidy for Trade Test;
- d. Subsidy for Specified Training Course / Skills Enhanced Course; and
- e. Enhanced Construction Supervisor / Technician Training Programme.

Among 935 trainees enrolled in the ECMTS by end January 2012, nearly 60% are under the age of 35 which reflects that more young people are willing to join the construction industry after the implementation of the Build Up Training Programme. This reflects the initial success of the programme. We had conducted surveys which revealed more respondents considered that the economic outlook of the construction industry was becoming more favourable and the image of the construction workers was positive and healthy.

About the Construction Industry Council

The Construction Industry Council (CIC) was formed on 1 February 2007 under the Construction Industry Council Ordinance Cap. 587. CIC consists of a chairman and 24 members representing various sectors of the industry including employers, professionals, academics, contractors, workers, independent persons and Government officials.

The main functions of CIC are to forge consensus on long-term strategic issues, convey the industry's needs and aspirations to Government, as well as provide a communication channel for Government to solicit advice on all construction-related matters.

To learn more about the CIC, please visit website <www.hkcic.org> for further details.

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