

PRESS RELEASE

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Opening Ceremony for “Construction Youth Exchange Programme in GBA 2024” 110 Mainland and Hong Kong Youth to Explore Key Construction Hubs in Five Greater Bay Area Cities, Fostering Mutual Exchange and Professional Development



The Construction Industry Council and its Youth Affairs Committee (CICYAC), proudly announces the commencement of the "Construction Youth Exchange Programme in GBA 2024" (the Programme). This 10-day initiative was inaugurated with an opening ceremony and dinner on the evening of 22 July in Kowloon Bay

Hong Kong • 23 July 2024 – To expand the horizons of construction industry talent and nurture emerging professionals, the Construction Industry Council (CIC), through its Youth Affairs Committee (CICYAC), proudly announced the commencement of the "Construction Youth Exchange Programme in GBA 2024" (the Programme). This 10-day initiative was inaugurated with an opening ceremony and dinner on the evening of 22 July in Kowloon Bay, officiating by the Guests-of-honour included Ms. Bernadette LINN, Secretary for Development; Mr. Ricky LAU, Permanent Secretary for Development (Works); Ir Prof. Thomas HO, Chairman of the CIC; Ir Prof. Albert CHENG, Executive Director of the CIC; Dr. FU Pengpeng, Researcher 1, Department of Educational, Scientific and Technological Affairs, Liaison Office of the Central People's Government in the HKSAR (LOCPG); Cr Terence MANG, Chairperson of Construction Industry Council Youth Affairs Committee of the CIC; and other CIC Council Members.

Riding on last year's success, this year's Programme has expanded in scale, and for the first time, Mainland students are invited to visit Hong Kong. All participants will initially pair up and engage in exchange activities in Hong Kong, to gain understanding on local industry's achievements. They will then visit key cities in the Greater Bay Area, including Zhuhai, Foshan, Guangzhou, Dongguan, and Shenzhen. During these visits, participants will delve into local construction and technology firms, universities, and cultural destinations, and interact with industry leaders achieving mutual exchange.

Ms. Bernadette LINN, Secretary for Development, emphasised the significance of the Programme during her opening remarks. She highlighted that young people are the future pillars of the society, and the construction industry is the underlying fundament and driving force of the societal development. This Programme connects youth with the construction industry and the nation's innovative technologies, in which participants will have the

opportunity to visit key construction projects in the Greater Bay Area, such as construction robots and ecological nuclear power facilities. Particularly in Guangdong Province, they will witness the transformation and upgrading of the construction industry, a leap of the country's I&T development over a decade, and the emergence of "new quality productive forces". In Hong Kong, participants will explore the development of MiC and the collaboration between Mainland China and Hong Kong. This Programme will showcase how the construction industry, as a core profession, links related industries and promotes continuous progress and civilisation through technological industrialisation. These experiences will undoubtedly bring new inspirations and ideas to young people as they explore their career paths.

Ir Prof. Thomas HO, Chairman of the CIC, said, "The connectivity of the Greater Bay Area creates unprecedented development opportunities for Hong Kong's construction industry, ushering in a golden decade. As the future pillars of our society, young people possess boundless creativity and vitality, becoming the backbone of the Greater Bay Area's development. To contribute effectively, they must not only master solid professional knowledge and skills but also embrace an open, inclusive, and innovative spirit, daring to step out of their comfort zones and broaden their horizons."

Cr Terence MANG, Chairperson of CICYAC of the CIC, expressed his expectations at the event. "Last year's inaugural exchange programme received enthusiastic responses, prompting us to expand its scale this year, increasing the number of participants while enhancing the mutual exchange activities between Mainland and Hong Kong participants. We hope that young people from the Mainland and Hong Kong will actively engage in each activity, approach new friends with different cultural and growth backgrounds with an open attitude, seek common ground while reserving differences, and acquire interpersonal skills."

Mr. Ricky LAU, Permanent Secretary for Development (Works) and Ir Prof. Albert CHENG, Executive Director of the Construction Industry Council, presented certificates of appreciation to the sponsors and supporting organisations of the Programme, acknowledging their staunch support and commitment to the professional development of the youth.

Interactive Group Activities and Dinner Enhance Exchange Between Mainland and Hong Kong Youth

The Programme includes 110 participants from the Mainland China and Hong Kong. On the morning of 22 July, participants engaged in ice-breaking activities to deepen mutual understanding. The evening's opening ceremony featured interactive games, fostering a relaxed atmosphere for participants to bond. The lively event culminated with a band performance by construction industry practitioners, further energising the participants. During the sharing session, youth representatives, including LEUNG In-rui from Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, Tina YAU from the Clementi Secondary School, HUANG Xu from Guangdong University of Technology, and Leon LIANG from Zhejiang University, shared their most memorable experiences from the first day and their expectations for the upcoming activities. They all expressed their eagerness to seize every learning opportunity and actively acquire more professional knowledge and experience in the construction industry.

Visits to Leading Enterprises in Hong Kong and Greater Bay Area

The Programme is divided into two phases. Starting in Hong Kong on 22 July, participants will spend three days visiting CIC's Safety Experience Training Centre, CIC Digital Twins Hub,

CIC-Zero Carbon Park, and other iconic construction projects such as The Henderson, exploring its digital twin technology application; InnoCell, the first building using steel MiC system at the Hong Kong Science Park and the Organic Resources Recovery Centre O.PARK2. These visits can certainly provide insights into the achievements of Hong Kong's construction industry.

The second phase involves a seven-day, six-night tour of the Greater Bay Area, where participants will visit key construction industry enterprises and universities in Zhuhai, Foshan, Guangzhou, Dongguan, and Shenzhen. Highlights include the Shenzhen Institute of Building Research (IBR) building, the Songshan Lake Robotics Research and Development Centre, China Resources Building Materials Technology, Daya Bay Nuclear Power Station, and Guangdong University of Technology. In addition to exploring the construction industry, participants will tour famous Greater Bay Area attractions, experiencing the region's lifestyle comprehensively.

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Hi-res photo link: <https://bit.ly/3Wzuahd>



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Ir Prof. Thomas HO, Chairman of the Construction Industry Council, says that young people will become the backbone of the Greater Bay Area's development and they must embrace an innovative spirit to broaden their horizons

2024 建造業青年大灣區交流計劃

Construction Youth Exchange Program In GBA 2024



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110 participants from mainland China and Hong Kong engages in ice-breaking activities to deepen mutual understanding in the morning



The evening's opening ceremony features interactive games, fostering a relaxed atmosphere for participants to bond



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About the Construction Industry Council

The Construction Industry Council (CIC) was formed in 2007 under the Construction Industry Council Ordinance (Cap. 587). The 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 the CIC are to forge consensus on long-term strategic issues, convey the industry's needs and aspirations to the Government, provide professional training and registration services, and serve as a communication channel between the Government and the construction industry.

Please visit www.cic.hk for further details.

About the Hong Kong Institute of Construction

To tie in with the changes and progress of the construction industry in Hong Kong, the Hong Kong Institute of Construction (HKIC) was established in 2018. HKIC is an organisation member of the Construction Industry Council and provides a wide range of construction trainings (including full-time and part-time courses) for the young people and working adults who intend to develop their career in the construction industry, and the experienced construction practitioners, who pursue to enhance their skills and knowledge.

Please visit www.hkic.edu.hk for further details.

About “Design for Future Build for Life” Construction Hong Kong

The Hong Kong Construction Industry brings visible and tangible achievements to our daily lives. In recent years, the Construction Industry is committed to bringing innovation in construction through the use of new technologies to enhance industry productivity and attract cross-sectoral talents to work together to bring a better living space to the public.

In connection with the above, the Construction Industry Council, with the support of the Development Bureau and in partnership with professional and trade institutions of the construction industry, is implementing a joint promotion campaign – “Design for Future Build for Life” – for the whole construction industry to reach out to the community. The campaign brought together elites from different sectors of the industry to launch a series of interactive promotional content and programmes to better the public’s understanding of the industry, the professionalism required, career prospects and the immense contribution it has done for our society. Phase 1 of the campaign featured a TV commercial and building hoardings done in collaboration with a local illustrator, adding colour to the community while promoting the Construction Industry. In 2023, the campaign grew to include larger scale promotions including TV commercials, TV programmes, as well as the launch of “Master Talks” for primary and secondary students.

For the first time ever, the campaign has joined hands with 20 organisations in efforts to promote the Construction Industry. These organisations include the Construction Industry Council, Development Bureau and its Works Branch, Education Bureau, The Association of Architectural Practices, The Association of Consulting Engineers of Hong Kong, Hong Kong Construction Association, The Hong Kong Federation of Electrical and Mechanical Contractors Limited, The Hong Kong Institute of Architects, The Hong Kong Institute of Surveyors, The Hong Kong Institution of Engineers, Contractor’s Authorised Signatory Association, The Federation of Hong Kong Electrical & Mechanical Industries Trade Unions, Hong Kong Construction Industry Employees General Union, Hong Kong General Building Contractors Association Limited, Hong Kong Construction Managers, The Hong Kong Institute of Landscape Architects, Hong Kong Institute of Planners, The Hong Kong Registered Contractors Association, The Real Estate Developers Association of Hong Kong as well as the support of tertiary and training institutions.

For more details, please visit the campaign website: www.constructionhk.org