

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HKIC Launched First Robotic Welding Course **Upskilling to Lead Smart Construction**

Hong Kong • 21 August 2024 — To enhance construction efficiency, quality and safety, the demand for construction robots in global construction industry is on the rise, and Hong Kong's construction industry is no exception. Some large-scale infrastructures, public hospital redevelopment, and public housing projects are utilising automated welding solutions. The Hong Kong Institute of Construction (HKIC), under the Construction Industry Council (CIC), has launched its first Professional Certificate in Robotic Welding Application programme. This aims to cultivate specialised technicians with cutting-edge skills, marking an important step forward in the development of construction robotics.

The 35-hour robotic welding programme divides into five sessions. It covers topics such as parameter settings of the robots for different working contexts, robotic system integration, and the use of automated welding machinery in construction projects. The goal is to help students gain a comprehensive understanding of how welding robots and automation technologies can be applied in the construction industry, thereby enhancing site safety management. "The CIC has been driving the construction industry to continuously adopt innovative technologies, it also steps up training to equip practitioners with the necessary skills," said Ir Albert CHENG, Executive Director of the CIC. "The launch of the first Robotic Welding Application programme exemplifies the CIC's vision in leading the construction industry to embrace the digital era."

The first cohort of the programme has successfully completed yesterday. The graduates, who are frontline welding practitioners in the industry, are now ready to integrate robotic and automation technologies into construction projects. The graduates expressed excitement about mastering the practical knowledge and skills, and found the hands-on training with the latest welding robot technologies to be very helpful in enhancing their skillsets. Furthermore, they shared that integrating automation and robotics into welding workflows is key to improving efficiency. The graduates also expressed that the programme curriculum is comprehensive, and look forward to applying what they have learnt to contribute to the modernisation and safety of the construction industry.

The HKIC plans to launch the second cohort of the robotic welding programme in late October, and will further expand the robotic programmes to the painting trade later, solidifying its leading role in driving construction training. The CIC will also organise a series of complimentary Construction Robot Operator Training Programme covering four key areas: drone technology, drilling, spraying, and transport robots. The webinar on 3 September will provide detailed explanations, and experts will share practical experience, helping the industry keep up with the latest technologies to build more world-class structures in Hong Kong.

For more information on the “Professional Certificate in Robotic Welding Application” programme (Chinese only), please visit: www.hkic.edu.hk/zh-hk/programmes/skill-upgrade/frwa

For more information on the Webinar on “Robotic Operator Training”, please visit: https://cic-hk.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_Ia-7zbTXG63OUI0wytZg#/registration

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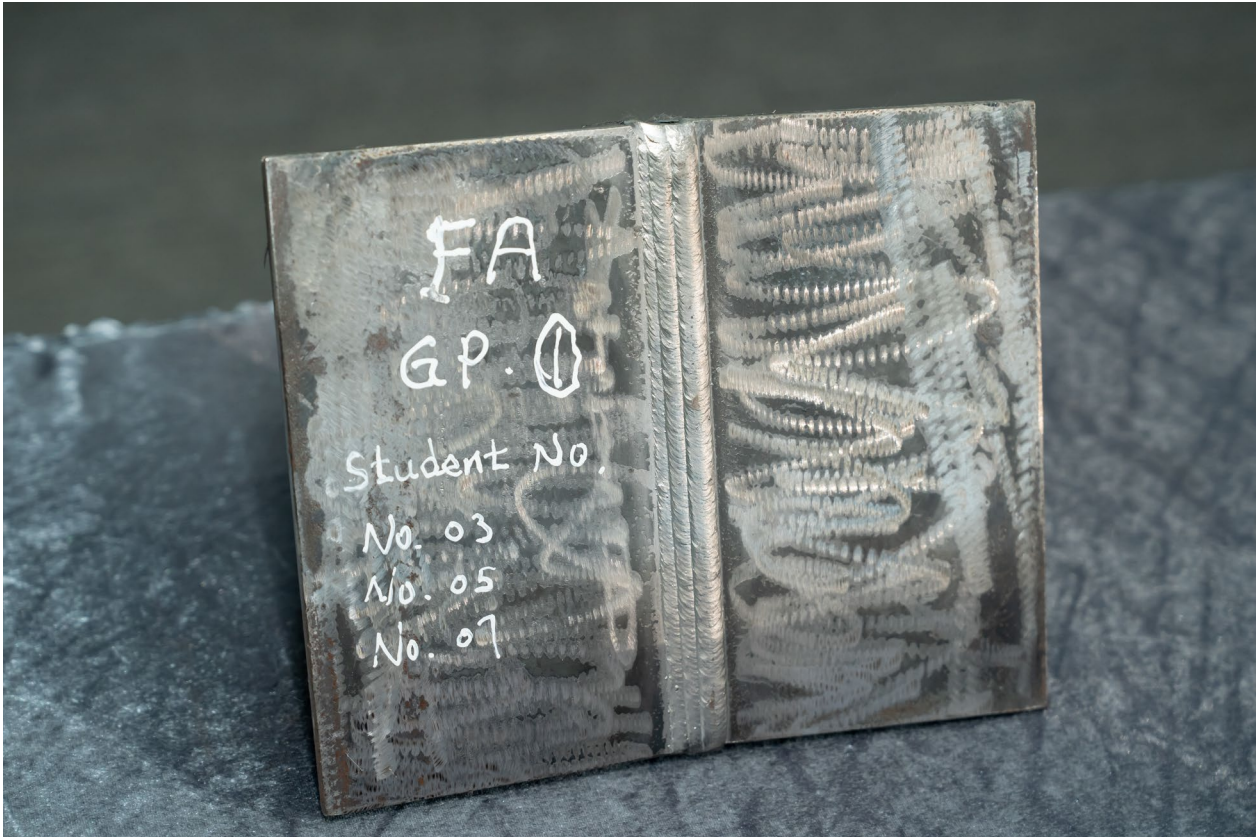
The graduates successfully obtain the Professional Certificate in Robotic Welding Application, pictured with Ms. Rebecca CHOI, Acting Director of Hong Kong Institute of Construction (5th left), Mr. Charles HO, Assistant Director - Training (2nd right), Mr. William HO, Head of Certificate Training (4th left), and the instructors



Students operate the welding robot with the assistance of HKIC instructors



Students learn to adjust welding robot parameters for various welding tasks



Graduates present their work at the graduation ceremony and said that welding robots help replace repetitive tasks and improve efficiency

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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.