

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Construction Industry Council Welcomes the 2025-26 Budget
Innovation-focused to Nurture the Next Generation

Hong Kong • 26 February 2025 - The Construction Industry Council (CIC) welcomes the Financial Secretary's 2025-26 Budget, proposing a number of measures that aimed at boosting the development of the construction industry, adoption of innovative technologies, land use, and housing planning, the CIC also supports government's determination in investing in large scale infrastructure projects. According to the Medium Range Forecast, the period of 2025-26 to 2029-30 will see the rise of capital works expenditure from the previously estimated \$90 billion per annum on average to about \$120 billion per annum on average. Timely progress on the Northern Metropolis and other strategic infrastructure works can deliver early benefits to the economy and the public. As the private sector is entering an adjustment period, the government's continuous investment in infrastructure will further promote the development of the construction industry.

To echo government's focuses on driving the development and direction with innovation and technology, the CIC will lead the construction industry to constantly renew, implement the measures related to construction innovative technologies and talent development as addressed in the Budget, to boost the industry competitiveness, supports Hong Kong's high-quality development and to serve the country's needs.

With the support of the Development Bureau, the CIC will allocate at least HK\$220 million to assist the industry in promoting talent training and construction safety, of which HK\$150 million will be used to support the training of approximately 2,500 young talents to gain knowledge and experience, and to obtain professional qualifications, with an aim to nurture and retain talents for the industry.

The CIC and the government will jointly invest HK\$95 million to provide on-the-job training subsidies to students enrolled in part-time construction-related degree programmes in the 2025/26 to 2026/27 academic years. It is anticipated to benefit about 1,000 students, addressing the upcoming manpower needs.

Ir Prof. Thomas HO, Chairman of the CIC, stated, "The strengthening of the training measures provides timely response to the challenges faced by the industry in the current adjustment period. The CIC will work with the government to implement the above measures, providing on-the-job training, as well as providing progression ladders for technical personnel and graduates of professional degrees. On one hand to attract more

youth to join the industry to cope with the manpower demand, on the other hand to raise the creativity and competitiveness of the industry.

Ir Albert CHENG, Executive Director of the CIC, pointed out, "City development requires collaboration among various professions. The CIC's HK\$150 million's funding on talent development will cover five major professional areas, including engineers, surveyors, architects, landscape architects, and planners. We are now discussing the details with the trade associations and professional institutes, and they will be announced in due course, while the applications are expected to open in mid-March 2025."

In terms of the training of skilled workers, the CIC will continue to make use of the \$1 billion funding from the government in 2022 and CIC's resources to train up new talents, and to uplift the technical level of the workers. The training quotas will raise from 6,000 in the academic year of 2021-22, to at least 12,000 annually between academic year 2022-23 to 2027-28, initiatives include providing short-term courses of different durations for those willing to join the construction industry to enroll in during spare time, as well as offering "Multi-Skilled" part-time short term training courses.

The CIC will also lead the industry in implementing the government's initiatives to promote the adoption of innovative technologies and drive industry development as outlined in the Budget. The CIC supports the Development Bureau and the Building Technology Research Institute in actively promoting the complementarity and industry development of Modular Integrated Construction in the Greater Bay Area, as well as the establishment of testing and certification standards. Additionally, various collaborations with the mainland will be pursued to formulate standards for the Greater Bay Area, including technical standards for skilled workers and personnel, aiming to enhance the overall quality of training in the GBA.

The government has led by example in adopting various innovative technologies in public works projects, and further promote these initiatives to the private sector which is now beginning to bear fruit. To support Development Bureau's works in digitalising public works projects by adopting A.I., Smart Site Safety System, and other technologies such introducing highly effective construction robots in projects with functions including automated processes, etc., the CIC will continue to help the industry in speeding up the practical use of these innovation technologies through Construction Innovation and Technology Fund. (CITF), and offer extra training programmes, such as Construction Robot Operator Training Programme for technicians and skill workers.

Construction safety is the cornerstone of the industry development, the CIC will allocate funding to support construction sites to hold "Lunchtime Safety Talks", in order to reinforce the message of "Life First" to frontline workers and strive toward the goal of "zero



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accidents".

The relevant policy measures of this year's Budget will strongly enhance Hong Kong's competitiveness. The CIC will fully support and cooperate with the government, to assist the industry in improving construction efficiency and quality, and contributing its professionalism to Hong Kong for the benefit of the people.

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Media Enquiries

Corporate Communications Department

Tel: 2100 9000

Fax: 2100 9090

Email: corpcomm@cic.hk

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.