

Opinion of the Hong Kong Institute of Architects (HKIA) on the Construction Workers Registration Bill

(A) Reasons of supporting the Bill for Registration of Workers in the Construction Industry

1. Hong Kong as a World Class City in China

It is the policy of HKIA to strive for a continuous upgrade of the standard of construction and to maintain our competitive advantage as a world class city in China.

2. Upgrading of Construction Standard

In order to keep the Construction Industry to be comparable to other world class cities, the upgrading of skill and quality of our DESIGN, construction MANAGEMENT and construction personnel are of equal importance. The registration of workers, sub-contractors, supervisors are steps in the right direction.

3. New Challenges

Workers are facing new challenges with advancement of techniques & technology and requirement of having a more friendly construction environment i.e. less nuisance to neighbours. Construction workers & public also demand a safe & hygienic work site. Major clients/ developers such as Housing Department and MTRC already require workers to be trade-tested to meet these challenges.

(B) Means to achieve the goals stated above:

1. Training & Trade Testing

In order to meet the increasing demand in workers' skill and quality, better training and trade testing is necessary.

2. Registration System

A registration system for construction personnel is a step in the right direction. It is also a means to improve skill development for construction workers.

(C) Benefits to Workers through implementation of a Registration System

1. Better Living Standard to Workers

Improvement of workers standard will improve income, standard of living and working environment.

2. Livelihood not threatened

No construction workers will lose livelihood under the Scheme of Formal and Provisional Registration.

3. Exemption Mechanism

Allow senior worker (with experience of more than 10 years in respective trade) to be recognized.

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