

Provisional Construction Industry Co-ordination Board

Jan - Mar
2005



Quarterly Highlights

Board Meetings

The Provisional Construction Industry Co-ordination Board (PCICB) has met once during this period. Apart from reviewing the progress made by its six working groups, the Board touched upon a number of other topics –

- Performance benchmarking system proposed by the Hong Kong Demonstration Projects Committee (HKDPC)
- Updated developments of the central data bank comprising accepted building materials, components and systems
- Current activities and research projects of the Construction Industry Council – Hong Kong (CII-HK)

Members received a presentation from HKDPC on its plan of establishing a local performance benchmarking system based on good practices identified by an editorial panel through selected demonstration projects. They endorsed this bottom-up approach but advised that greater inclusiveness and transparency should be enshrined in the screening process through an expanded membership of the editorial panel as well as refined selection criteria and procedures.

On the central data bank, BD reported that the first reference list comprising 170 building products was promulgated and uploaded to its website for public consumption. Although Members envisaged no difficulty for other participating organizations to publish their own approved lists under phase one of the proposal, they requested that subsequent phases involving common standards should be carefully examined.

Finally, Members noted the outcome of research projects conducted by CII-HK last year and the on-going activities on repair/maintenance of old buildings, construction safety, green building assessments and specialist subcontractor management. The findings could form a useful basis for PCICB to map out its strategy in taking forward the relevant reform initiatives.



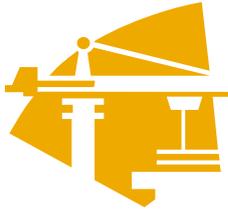


Construction Industry Council

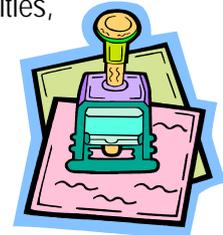
The Construction Industry Council (No.2) Bill is still under scrutiny by the Legislative Council and deliberations were being held on key issues such as statutory functions and composition of the Council, openness of its future operation and a smooth amalgamation with the Construction Industry Training Authority (CITA).



Construction Cost and Performance Indicators



The Task Force to Review the Construction Stage of the Development Process has accorded priority to six main areas, namely private certification, alignment of key development parameters, greater delegation of vetting authorities, centralized processing, web-based tracking system of building submissions and overall review of the regulatory framework. To begin with, a stocktaking exercise on building submissions capable of deriving benefits from private certification and a detailed study on overseas experience will be conducted. In parallel, the Task Force on Construction Research and Development has proposed a mechanism anchored upon the Construction Industry Council for improved co-ordination and collaboration.



Manpower Training and Development

Acknowledging the contribution made by mid-stream personnel towards elevating built quality, the Working Group on Manpower Training and Development has worked with the professional institutions to facilitate introduction of associated memberships for aspired practitioners and pursue government recognition of these qualifications. Furthermore, the working group will keep track of a review being led by CITA and the Vocational Training Council on the structure of their respective training programmes in light of changing circumstances.





Construction Site Safety and Employee's Compensation Insurance

The Working Group on Construction Site Safety and Employees' Compensation (EC) Insurance has achieved notable progress in promoting the trial use of voluntary mediation as an alternative to litigation. Six pilot cases identified thus far by the Hong Kong Mediation Council and the Labour Department (LD) will help to ascertain the effectiveness of this dispute resolution method in expediting settlement of injury claims. Moreover, the Hong Kong Federation of Insurers will ensure availability of insurance coverage at reasonable premium for self-employed persons packaged together with third-party liability policies and forge a close partnership with the Hong Kong Construction Association to engender support among contractors.



Management of Subcontracting

The Voluntary Subcontractors Registration Scheme launched some 18 months ago has successfully attracted 2,415 applications, of which 2,147 have been approved as at the end of April. The Working Group on Management of Subcontracting will seek to develop this platform into a formal communication channel with subcontractors and a launching pad of training modules designed to raise their professional standards. Meanwhile, the guidelines on standard forms of domestic subcontracts for basic trade have been finalized and a set of sample sub-subcontracts will be drawn up for use at the second or lower tiers.



Construction Waste

The Working Group on Construction Waste has looked into waste reduction/management practices adopted by leading client organizations and will set up a web-based resource centre to disseminate guidelines, tools as well as other useful reference materials. Apart from advising on an operational framework for export of inert construction and demolition materials to the Mainland, the working group will explore potential use of public fill for quarry rehabilitation/contouring at Kai Tak and monitor implementation of the construction waste disposal charging scheme to create economic incentives for waste reduction.



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Events and Activities

A total of 78 staff from 48 subcontracting firms registered under VSRS attended a half-day seminar on the Construction Safety (Amendment) Regulation 2003 hosted by LD on 25 February 2005. This is the second round of training courses aimed to provide stakeholders with better knowledge on their statutory responsibilities.



How to Contact Us



Further information about the PCICB may be obtained from our website at <http://www.pcicb.gov.hk>.

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