

Professional Green Building Council

18 November 2004

By Fax and By Post
Fax No. : 2869 6794

Bills Committee on Construction Industry Council (No.2) Bill
Legislative Council Secretariat
3rd Floor, Citibank Tower
3 Garden Road
Central
Hong Kong

Attn : Ms Christina SHIU, Clerk to Bills Committee

Dear Sirs,

Re: Blue Bill for the Proposed Construction Industry Council (CIC)

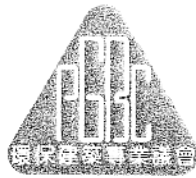
We read with enthusiasm the Blue Bill presented recently by Government for the proposed Construction Industry Council.

Whilst this Council is highly supportive of the rationale behind the proposed Bill and the initiatives therein, we are equally aware that the proposed composition of the CIC has drawn considerable attention amongst industry stakeholders during the consultation exercise. The pertinent issue is related to the appointment of CIC representatives from individual professionals (selected by Government) in their personal capacity, or from nominees by selected professional bodies who are construed as legitimate stakeholders of the industry.

We are of the strong view that the latter approach is to be adopted, on the grounds that the CIC will become an imperious body of the local construction industry. The representation by individual professional stakeholder in the CIC should call for a collective responsibility and communication channel of the respective professional population which the CIC member himself or herself duly represents. Without this, we are concerned that the CIC would be risking its important mandate of collaborating with, in a truly representative manner, the eminent professions which would have an impact to the betterment of the construction industry at large.

We further see a coordinated support by the appointed professional bodies in the CIC to be instrumental to a wider acceptance of policy matters and their recognition (and hence, avoidance of impasse) by the concerned stakeholders.

P. 1 of 2



Professional Green Building Council

Hong Kong has a history of well established professional institutions and bodies, who are either statutory bodies for professional qualifications (and registrations) or learned society functions. Over the years, these institutions' representatives have served various Government Boards and Councils with success. The issue here is not to do who is to be appointed in a personal capacity, but to do with which professional institutions or bodies ought to be appointed to the CIC.

With this in mind, we submit that the Professional Green Building Council (PGBC) should be enlisted as a potential professional body for appointment to the CIC. For the benefits of the Bills Committee, the PGBC is a local research and education institute formed in 2002 to promote a better sustainable built environment through professional involvement. The objects for which the PGBC is established are as follows:

- to conduct collaborative research and publish research results on local and global development of green buildings;
- to organize research seminars and training courses in green building design and technology; and
- to advise the government on the formulation, setting up and monitoring of a local green building labeling scheme.

The founding members of PGBC comprise The Hong Kong Institute of Architects, The Hong Kong Institution of Engineers, The Hong Kong Institute of Landscape Architects and The Hong Kong Institute of Surveyors. The professional population under the PGBC thus amounts to more than 30,000 qualified and experienced architects, engineers and surveyors. They would undoubtedly be an important stakeholder group to the CIC.

We trust our express views would be gainfully considered by the Bills Committee. Where necessary, we would be pleased to attend to the Bills Committee for a presentation of PGBC at its forthcoming meeting of the subject issues.

Yours faithfully,

Kenneth Chan
Vice Chairman

c.c. PGBC Council Members