

# The 'Building Hong Kong, Building Your Future' Campaign – Construction Industry Supports Training for Next Generation

Wearing a lab coat and testing soil for construction grounds by day, Dickson Tang Shiu-lam plays basketball by night. Tang completed the advanced diploma in civil engineering supervision at the Hong Kong Institute of Construction (HKIC). He enjoys the team spirit in both his construction work and basketball games.

"Ten years from now, I hope to become a chartered engineer," he said, adding that he is already on the path to furthering his studies for this long-term goal.

Another graduate found her passion in joinery – creating and combining wood elements into complex objects or structures. When asked what she would advise a potential student at the HKIC, Woo Sin-hang, who previously had a white-collar career, said that she would say construction can be a difficult path, but it is where she finds her happiness.

"Compared to a traditional apprenticeship, the HKIC's training accelerated my career in joinery by one or two years," she said. "The training in safety was particularly valuable."

**"Nurturing the next generation of construction professionals involves a new approach – technical skills training, together with whole-person development such as sports and volunteering activities, are offered to students at the Hong Kong Institute of Construction."**

**Chan Ka-kui**

Chairman of the Construction Industry Council



**A big family going strong: Nearly 100 developers, contractors, government departments and professional organisations have become members of the 'Building Hong Kong, Building Your Future' charter.**

The stories of Tang and Woo were among those featured in the 'Building Hong Kong, Building Your Future' campaign by the HKIC. The campaign marks a turning point in the Hong Kong construction sector. Construction work in Hong Kong had been traditionally seen as menial work with limited development opportunities. Today, the vibrant construction sector offers a variety of attractive career paths, supported by systematic training.

The HKIC hosted the 'Building Hong Kong, Building Your

Future' Charter Signing and Kick-off Ceremony on 4 July at the Hong Kong Maritime Museum.

The roster of charter signatories shows unity in the industry. Nearly 100 Hong Kong property developers, contractors, subcontractors, works division of the HKSAR government, industry associations and professional organisations pledged to support the promotion of the training for construction workers in Hong Kong to build a pool of professional.

The HKIC commissioned Stanley Wong Ping-pui, renowned

designer and artist, also known as Another Mountain Man, to direct three promotional videos.

These videos featured the stories of three graduates of the HKIC, capturing the graduates' passion, commitment and inspiration towards the construction industry.

As the director, Wong said the videos were based on unscripted interviews as the graduates' stories speak for themselves.

"One can achieve excellence and mastery in any profession," Wong said. "If you pour your heart into it, you will succeed."

Charter members of the 'Building Hong Kong, Building Your Future' campaign will be showing the videos at their premises, which include major shopping malls, offices and construction sites, as well as 85 government venues including large screens at Victoria Park and the Urban Council Centenary Garden.

Francis Wong, Director of the Hong Kong Institute of Construction, said that he believes that there are jobs for a range of personalities and areas of interests.

"These are real stories of our graduates that showed team spirit in the industry, and our value of passing on our skills and passion to the next generation," Francis Wong said, referring to how Woo Sin-hang learned joinery techniques from a seasoned master, and how Woo wishes to teach her skills to other young students or apprentices someday.

Chan Ka-kui, Chairman of the Construction Industry Council of Hong Kong, emphasised the need for new blood joining the construction industry. The videos were "exactly the positive energy we need in our society today," Chan said.

To continue to upgrade the public image of construction work, the HKIC has worked on improving training facilities and obtaining the qualification framework for its programmes, Chan added.

Other initiatives include encouraging employers to introduce sports and volunteering activities in the workplace, strengthening apprenticeship programmes, and advocating long-term employment instead of temporary or daily wages for construction jobs.

Albert Cheng, Executive Director of the Construction Industry Council of Hong Kong, said that the industry is increasingly adopting technologies such as Building Information Modeling (BIM) and Modular Integrated Construction (MiC).

"We will continue our efforts in promoting the construction sector in a new light, and to continue to communicate with all stakeholders involved," Cheng said.



**Training the next generation: Nearly 100 industry partners have pledged to promote the training of construction workers. Promotional materials based on the videos show the HKIC graduates in their new construction careers.**



**Passion and commitment: HKIC graduates Dickson Tang Shiu-lam (far right) and Woo Sin-hang (far left) interviewed HKIC Director Francis Wong (second from right) and renowned artist Stanley Wong Ping-pui (second from left). Francis Wong said that there is a variety of construction jobs for potential HKIC students of every personality. Meanwhile, Stanley Wong said he was glad to see that construction is not just a livelihood for HKIC graduates, but is also a passion for life.**

## Walk-in Interview for Full-time Programmes

<b>Time</b>	9am – 5pm (Monday to Friday)
<b>Address</b>	<b>Kowloon Bay Campus</b> 44 Tai Yip Stret, Kowloon Bay (5-10 minutes walk from Exit A of Kowloon Bay MTR Station)
	<b>Sheung Shui Campus</b> 1 Fung Nam Road, Sheung Shui (Take Bus No. 270 to Tsui Lai Garden Station from Sheung Shui MTR Station)
<b>Enquiry</b>	2100 9000
<b>Website</b>	www.hkic.edu.hk