

ESTABLISHING A HONG KONG BASED CARBON LABELLING FRAMEWORK FOR CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS

Project Synopsis

While Hong Kong aims to be a sustainable low carbon economy city, the construction industry has a critical role to play. Commissioned by the Construction Industry Council (CIC), the research project attempts to develop a framework for classifying construction materials according to their greenhouse gas (GHG) emission level and so as to help building Hong Kong into a low carbon economy as envisaged by the Chief Executive in his 2009-10 Policy Address. By measuring and benchmarking the lifecycle carbon footprint of a building product, consumers or those responsible for sourcing can decide which product to order to meet their specific emission goal.

This research project marks a milestone in collaboration between the industry and academia for the promotion of sustainability in construction. It is anticipated that the carbon labelling framework for construction materials, once developed, will help achieve the target of emission reduction as proposed by the government. The findings should also put Hong Kong at the forefront of sustainable development as well as accreditation service and carbon auditing.



The study is led by Dr. S. Thomas Ng, Associate Professor of Civil Engineering Department, The University of Hong Kong. Research team members include Professor Albert K.H. Kwan, Head of Civil Engineering Department, The University of Hong Kong; Dr James Wong, Postdoctoral of the Department of Civil Engineering, The University of Hong Kong; and Dr. Vivian W.Y. Tam, Senior Lecturer, University of Western Sydney, Australia, and is backed by a four-member research team from the Department of Civil Engineering of The University of Hong Kong. A ten-member Research Task Force from the CIC is established being chaired by Professor Conrad T.C. Wong, JP with strong representation from a cross-section of the construction industry including the government, consultants, contractors and suppliers to steer the study process.