

Hong Kong Construction Materials Association Limited 香港建築業物料聯會有限公司

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## **PRESS RELEASE**

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## Pre Alerting General Public on Imminent Materials Supply Shortage Crisis (January to February 2022)

Since two months ago, raw materials import into Hong Kong mainly from Guangdong province has been adversely affected by Chinese authorities' energy consumption ual control policy coupled with tightened health control regulations. As at today, the raw materials supply chain (including aggregate (majority of which is imported from GD province mainly for concrete production), cement, PFA, river sand, steel bar) hasn't yet resumed normal, consequently causing tardiness and delay in construction materials order delivery/fulfilment for housing projects, be it private and public works. In fact, same situation had once occurred during Chinese New Year holidays, weeks before and after last year when Chinese authorities had imposed stringent quarantine regulations and control measures amid COVID 19 pandemic. The much toughened measures had seriously affected the marine transport barge crew members heading back their home town for holidays. Unfortunately, as COVID 19 Pandemic still persists, even aggravated by Delta Variant scenario, next year CNY, these barge crew are now mandated to serve 14+7 days' quarantine at designated locations before their homeward bound trip. Pathetically, same situation is anticipated to recur before CNY next year and even expectedly earlier starting January 2022. The resultant impact and possible disruption of raw materials supply chain could inevitably be worse. Last but definitely not the least, recent downsizing and constraints on marine transport capacity, regionally, globally and within Mainland China, has added tremendous pressure on current materials supply chain deficiency.

At present critical time juncture, HKCMA had already issued notifications to HKSAR Government Development Bureau, related departments, HK Construction Association and Construction Industry Council pre alerting on such significant impact and possible construction project delays. Of course, as a professionally, socially and ethically responsible trade association representing HK construction materials suppliers and those from related sectors, we have long started taking necessary proactive



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precautionary towards hopefully mitigating the impact through ongoing liaison with Development Bureau and Civil Engineering and Development Department, in our attempt to strike out viable solution for interim.

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