

OPENING ADDRESS
BY THE HONOURABLE DEPUTY MINISTER OF WORKS,
MALAYSIA

YANG BERTHORMAT TUAN HAJI MOHD
ANNUAR BIN MOHD TAHIR

FOR THE QS INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION
2018 OPENING CEREMONY

DATE : 22 OCTOBER 2018 (MONDAY)
TIME : 9.10 AM
VENUE : SIME DARBY CONVENTION CENTRE

Selamat Pagi dan Salam Sejahtera

YBhg Dato' Sri Zohari Bin Hj Akob
Secretary General, Ministry of Works

YBhg Datuk Sr Aziz Abdullah
President, Board Of Quantity Malaysia

Professor Wing Lam
Provost and CEO of University of Reading Malaysia

YBerusaha Sr Mohd Zaid Zakaria
Chairman, Organising Committee QSIC 2018

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,



1. It is indeed a pleasure to be here this morning to launch the Quantity Surveying International Convention 2018. Allow me to congratulate the Board of Quantity Surveyors Malaysia, the Royal Institution of Surveyors Malaysia, the University of Reading Malaysia, Malaysian Highway Authority, Construction Industry Development Board and Public Works Department Malaysia for your success in organizing and hosting this event with the support from Persatuan Perunding Juruukur Bahan Melayu Malaysia.
2. The construction industry has been characterised as the epitome of dynamism and change – being ever evolving in the economical, technological and socio-political landscapes. Quantity surveying, as a profession with deep roots entrenched in the industry, is no exception. The practice underwent multiple transitional periods and paradigm shifts in its long history. It is important that all professions remain relevant in the era of Industry Revolution 4.0, we must all be prepared to face the challenges in the years ahead. Hence, I am very pleased to note that the organizers have chose the theme, “The Big Picture : Embracing the Future”. for this year convention which I believe is to delibrate the impact of new changes in policies and regulations of the new

government while embracing the good values of excellence.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

3. Throughout the past few years, the advent of information technology and the potential it offered, coupled with the downturn in construction activities, witnessed increasingly intense competition in the construction industry with Quantity Surveyors seeking opportunities beyond their domains. While the core competencies of the profession remained, the role of the Quantity Surveyors have changed and have also expanded to include more responsibilities in various spectrums.

4. As the Quantity Surveyors are about determining the elements and goals of your transitions, I urge you to benchmark yourselves with the best QS practices in the world. Quantity Surveyors have become key advisors on construction and development strategy, and are also involved in strategic decision making. Furthermore, apart from offering traditional QS services, I have been made to understand that Quantity Surveyors have for the past

decade been increasingly involved in oil and gas industry; telecommunication industry; manufacturing industry (for example, building materials and IBS components); finance industry, facilities management; and even development appraisals.

5. The versatility of the core competences of QS's potential should now venture into even newer scope of services. Civil and infrastructure works for example is a key element in equipping the nation towards becoming a developed nation. The Construction Industry Development Board of Malaysia for example have taken the lead of a team of 17 bodies in developing the 2nd Malaysian Civil Engineering Standard of Measurement (MyCESMM). Studies carried out by CIDB Malaysia shows that only 48% of civil engineering works in the country uses a standard method of measurement in their works, whereas 52% of civil engineering does not adopt any form standard method of measurement. This is an area where Quantity Surveyors should explore and offer their skills and expertise. I urge the Malaysian Highway Authority and other stakeholders to insist on the appointment of Quantity Surveyors in their team of consultants in their future projects.

6. I believe the profession will need to be more innovative to sustain in this challenging time, mergers between small and medium size practices to form bigger consortium might have to be considered. Different practices might have different areas of specialisation. The merger between two practices will increase the size of the organisation. Record shows that size does matter. Although powerful computers and advance tools might be an advantage in any organisation, hands on experience of the people in the organisations is needed in handling the day to day task. Experience is crucial in assessing variation and to conduct value engineering proposals to optimise cost. This where the strength of a competent Quantity Surveyor practice is most needed.

7. The Quantity Surveyors Act 1967 [Act 487] or more popularly known as the “Quantity Surveyors Act 1967 (Amendment 2015)” took effect on 30th January 2016. It was anticipated that the amendment will open up the Malaysian QS industry globally with the abolishment of citizenship clause, and the introduction of experience route for members of allied organisation. Despite the anticipation of the possibility of influx of ‘low cost’ Professional Quantity Surveyors or PQS from neighbouring countries,

after two years taking effect, this reaction remains yet to be seen. Perhaps two years is too short a time or perhaps the act needs to be reviewed further to allow for mergers between practices already in operation.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

8. The Quantity Surveying International Convention has a list of speakers that are prominent representatives from industry and academia, both local and international, who will address topical issues affecting the industry in general and the profession in particular. I understand that there will be a focus on creating tangible values for QS services by incorporating good practices, integrating innovative practices, as well as by leveraging on ICT, which has the twin effects of increasing productivity. In addition, I also welcome the Convention's intent to address the challenge in preparing the quantity surveying fraternity in embracing the future developments of the construction industry throughout its existence with the changes in the industry and clients' needs by reshaping the profession, highlighting its versatility and taking the lead.

9. I hope all of you will have a beneficial and fruitful discussion during this two-day convention. Let this meeting of minds help you find your mark in strengthening the Quantity Surveying profession for the benefit of our nation.

10. Last but not least, I would like to extend a very warm welcome, and wish “Selamat Datang” to our friends from abroad. I hope you will have happy memories of your stay here in Malaysia. I urge you not to hop on the next flight home but if possible, to extend your stay here to see more of what Malaysia has to offer.