

OPENING SPEECH
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THE MINISTER OF WORKS MALAYSIA
IN CONJUNCTION WITH
THE INTERNATIONAL CONSTRUCTION WEEK 2017
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KUALA LUMPUR CONVENTION CENTRE, KL

Theme:

Towards Enhancing Quality and Safety in Construction

Assalamualaikum wbt

Selamat Sejahtera, Salam Negaraku Malaysia.

1. Good morning and welcome to the International Construction Week 2017 (ICW 2017) themed, Towards Enhancing Quality and Safety in Construction. It is indeed a proud moment to see this annual event expand yearly with tremendous response from the local and international construction players alike.
2. My heartiest congratulations to the Construction Industry Development Board (CIDB), UBM and their partners for an outstanding effort in organising this event. This year, the ICW celebrates its 17th year as a platform for industry players to converge and showcase their products, technologies, services and projects, share ideas and forge new partnerships.

3. It is indeed a great honour for me to be in the presence of the international community of industry leaders and builders, the people who shape the physical built environment we see and experience around us.

4. The ICW 2017 is apt as we are witnessing increasingly the concerns of the construction fraternity on the importance of Quality control and Safety. As you may well be aware, the defects or failures in constructed facilities can result in huge losses due to re-construction and operations impaired. The increased costs and delays as a result, in worst case may cause personal injuries or fatalities. These accidents during the construction process can similarly result in personal injuries and additional cost. As such indirect costs of insurance, inspection and regulation are increasing rapidly due to these increased direct costs. Needless to say, it is critical for good project managers to try and ensure that the job is done right the first time and that no major accidents occur on the project.

Internationally and also at the national level, the performance of the construction industry has always been measured in terms of its quality and safety performance. Similarly, in Malaysia we are at the threshold of becoming a developed nation and there is now an urgent need for us to give greater emphasis on bringing up quality and safety performance to the next level.

Ladies and gentlemen,

5. Having this aspirations in mind, the Government has proactively amended the CIDB Act 520 to further enhance the quality and safety in construction. Under the Act, those who are found guilty of performing construction work without accreditation or hiring workers who are not accredited to do skilled construction work, can be fined not more than RM5,000. Secondly, the Act makes it mandatory for all parties in the construction supply chain to deal with or use only construction materials which has passed specified quality standards. This is to ensure that Malaysia does not become a dumping ground for

low quality building materials and only materials which has passed the Malaysian Standard specifications that can be used in construction projects. This will protect the interest of the public in terms of ensuring safety and quality of construction projects. All materials covered under the Act are listed under the Fourth schedule and those who are found guilty can be fined not less than RM10,000 and not more than RM500,000.

Thirdly, the Act put emphasis on the responsibility of contractors and site supervisors to manage and ensure the safety of buildings and building works during and after construction. Contractors can be charged under the Act whether or not they are registered with the CIDB. Any contractor who is found guilty can be fined up to RM500,000. They will be penalised additional fine of RM10,000 for everyday or part of a day which they do not comply after they have been charged. If any contractor which had violated its responsibility of maintaining safety and resulting in death, the contractor can be fined up to RM500,000 and jailed for not more than two years, or both.

Ladies and gentlemen,

6. Above and beyond the requirements of the law, the Construction Industry Transformation Programme (CITP) is positioned with initiatives to improve the Quality and Safety of the construction industry. Under the first strategic thrust of the CITP, which is Quality, Safety and Professionalism, we have set an overall target of reducing annual fatality rate in construction by 50 percent by 2020 from the 2015 baseline on fatality rate of 10.94 per 100,000 workers. Ultimately, we should aspire for zero fatality by taking the construction of the London Olympics Park as an example which is proof that zero fatality in a mega construction project is indeed possible with the commitment from all parties involved.

7. As such, in achieving the key outcome of reducing 50 percent of the industry fatality rate by 2020, CIDB is working closely with DOSH as well as other industry players in introducing new programmes and initiatives which will

elevate the safety and health performance of the industry.

Last year, CIDB and DOSH formalised their commitments in achieving the CITP goals for safety by signing a memorandum of collaboration which culminated in both organisations working closely on various initiatives to step up safety practices in our construction industry.

8. Among the CITP initiatives on Safety which includes the training of Safety and health officers (SHOs) and Site Safety Supervisors , CIDB has also initiated other programmes to assist G4 to G7 contractors in getting MS1722 or OSH 1800 certification on Occupational Health and Safety Management Systems.

9. In addition to initiatives laid out in CITP, I would also like to acknowledge the efforts initiated by DOSH to improve the Safety and Health conditions in the construction industry. The department recently kicked off a programme called Work Improvement for Small Contractors or WISCON where DOSH in a joint effort with CIDB are engaging with groups of G1

contractors to educate them on the implementation of safety and health guidelines at the construction site. The programme also intends to find out from contractors on any impediment that is obstructing them from complying with safety guidelines.

Through these feedbacks, both DOSH and CIDB will be able to enhance their programmes to instill safety and health in construction.

Ladies and gentlemen,

10. I must acknowledge that one of the initiatives that will have the most impact in its implementation is the Guidelines on Occupational Safety and Health in Construction Industry Management 2017 which has been developed by DOSH. I was made to understand that the guidelines were developed based on the United Kingdom's Construction Design Management (CDM) regulations which uses the principle of "Prevention through design". The CDM which has been made mandatory in countries like United Kingdom and Singapore has been

proven to improve the overall safety and health performance in the construction industry.

11. The CDM which works on the principle by triggering improvements in the construction industry safety and health performance, drives stakeholders to work together towards a set of common objectives. Previously, in any construction mishaps, all fingers will be pointed towards the contractors and clients dusts off their hands the moment the project is handed over to a contractor. On the other hand, CDM recognises that all stakeholders in the supply chain share the responsibility in ensuring safety and health in construction where the top most entity of the value chain is the client or project owner who will hold the chief responsibility.

12. I pledge my fullest commitment on behalf of The Ministry of Works and all of its agencies to stand in full support of the Ministry of Human Resource and DOSH in implementing this guideline. CIDB will work closely with DOSH to strengthen promotional efforts in creating awareness in the implementation

of CDM. In conjunction with the ICW 2017, we have introduced for the first time, the International Construction Safety Leadership Conference which has started its deliberation this morning with the main focus on the implementation of CDM.

Ladies and gentlemen,

13. Tomorrow, I will be chairing a round table discussion with captains of the construction industry with the objective of building a safety and health mindset and culture in the construction industry. It is also another effort in getting feedback and commitment from all captains of industry on the implementation CDM.

14. The opportunities to enhance quality and safety in the construction industry is vast and I am confident ICW 2017 will provide the necessary platform for industry stakeholders to gain more knowledge on this subject matter through the conferences

and seminars as well as innovative ideas and products showcased on the exhibition floor.

15. These are exciting times for the industry and we must give our full commitment to transform the industry through higher levels of quality and safety interventions in construction. I thank all of you for your participation and we certainly look forward to your presence again next year.

16. To our guests from abroad, participants, delegates and colleagues, I invite all of you to seek partnerships and alliances with Malaysian companies to pursue ventures not only in Malaysia but globally. I also hope you will all benefit from this meeting of minds, a market of ideas and opportunities which I hope will lead to better collaboration among industry players in Malaysia and the region.

17. On that note, it is with great pleasure that I declare this International Construction Week 2017 Open.

Thank You.