

Assalamualaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh, Salam Sejahtera and Good Morning.

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

1. It is indeed a pleasure for me to be here this morning to launch the Quantity Surveying International Convention (QSIC) 2017. Please allow me to congratulate the Board of Quantity Surveyors Malaysia, Royal Institution of Surveyors Malaysia, University of Malaya and Public Works Department, Construction Industry Development Board (CIDB) and Malaysian Highway Authority (MHA) as well as Persatuan Perunding Juruukur Bahan Bumiputera Malaysia (PPJBBM) for their efforts in organising and hosting this event.
2. Undeniably, the construction industry is the epitome of dynamism and change as characterised by an ever evolving economical, technological and socio-political landscape. Similarly, quantity surveying as a profession with its deep roots entrenched in the industry is no exception. The profession which underwent multiple transitional periods and paradigm shifts in its long history, witnessed academics and practitioners questioning its relevancy over these periods. Hence, the theme “Is QS Still Relevant?” for this year’s convention is apt which I believe will be a game changer as we deliberate on the impacts of new changes in policies and regulations for the industry.
3. The Quantity Surveyors Act 1967 which was amended as the “Quantity Surveyors (Amendment) Act 2015” will

definitely open up the Malaysian quantity surveying industry at the global stage. With the abolishment of the citizenship clause and introduction of experience route for members of allied organisation at the Pacific Association of Quantity Surveyors (PAQS) Board Meeting in Christchurch on May 2016 is certainly a way forward towards harmonization of the quantity surveying industry. This will also spur Malaysia as a regional “education hub” with the possibilities of international students joining the work force after graduating from these institution of higher learning. With the diverse cross cultural dynamics expected from this possible influx of Quantity Surveyors talents from neighbouring countries, the entry into the market and opportunities of the region becomes relatively easier.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

4. Over the past decades, the profession has undergone a number of transitions. The advent of information technology and the potential it offers, couple with the downturn in construction activities, witnessed increasingly intense competition in the construction industry as quantity surveyors seeks opportunities beyond their domains. While the core competencies of the profession ingrained, the role of the Quantity Surveyors have changed and expanded to include more responsibilities in various spectrums of the industry to remain relevant.

5. As such, I urge the Quantity Surveyors community to redefine and determine the elements and goals of your transition. I am hopeful the existing registered 685 Professional Quantity Surveyors and 1,612 Quantity Surveyors will benchmark yourselves with the best Quantity Surveyors practitioners in the world and become key advisors of the construction and

development industry. Apart from offering traditional Quantity Surveyors services, you may also want to provide your services to emerging and new industries, notably the oil and gas industry and other range of services, including facilities management and development appraisals. I have personally engaged with Quantity Surveyors who have become lead consultants in development projects by utilising sophisticated electronic information management systems and big data analytics in offering their services as a value proposition. In this regards, I encourage all of you to embrace this idea of change and be a disruptive innovator of the quantity surveying industry.

6. The QSIC 2017 has a list of speakers that are prominent representatives from the industry and academia both at the local and international level who will address topical issues affecting the industry in general and profession as a whole. I am made to understand that there will be a focus on creating tangible values for Quantity Surveyors services by incorporating good practices, integrating innovative practices, as well as leveraging on ICT as a tool aimed at increasing productivity and efficiency. In addition, I also welcome the Convention's intention to address the challenges in establishing the relevance of Quantity

Surveyors in the construction industry throughout its existence in spite of the changes in the industry and clients' needs in reshaping the profession, versatility and leadership of the industry.

7. I am confident the profession will remain relevant as we adopt advance technological tools in automating the services and solutions for the industry. Undoubtedly, Quantity Surveyors with experience are still needed to assess variations and re-

think value engineering proposals to reduce cost. By employing tools such as Building Information Modelling (BIM) can simplify some of the traditionally tedious and meticulous work for example measurements thereby allowing Quantity Surveyors with more time to focus on other areas. In this ever competitive industry, Quantity Surveyors will have to be creative and innovative in providing more value-added services in order to stay relevant.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

8. At this juncture, I would like to reiterate Quantity Surveyors' role which is importantly beneficial in selecting various materials which comply with environmental sustainability in construction. The "sustainable construction" agenda here is to ensure that the value created by sustainable construction is diverse which ranges from the supply chain of professionals, raw material extraction, utility generation and product development. The value of building sustainability is vital as we aspire for "Global Sustainability" in creating a better place for us to live and to thrive economically for our social-wellbeing.

9. In Malaysia we have proactively developed the Construction Industry Transformation Programme (CITP) in 2015 as a way forward in rethinking, redefining and remaking the demands of The Fourth Industrial Revolution 4.0 by implementing Pre Approved Plan (PAP) in Government projects, adopting Industrialised Building System (IBS) in Government and private projects as well as making Building Information Modelling (BIM) part of the future of our construction development agenda. Strategically for the industry, in order to ensure that our professionals will be part of the supply chain, one of

the CITP's initiatives is aimed at training no less than 5,000 professionals including Quantity Surveyors to apply IBS and Modular Coordination beginning from design phase by 2020.

10. I am hopeful you will have a beneficial and fruitful discussion during this two-day convention. May this meeting of minds help all of us in finding our mark in strengthening and empowering the Quantity Surveying profession for our mutual benefits.

11. Last but not least, I would like to extend a very warm welcome, and wish all of you "Selamat Datang" and wish you a pleasant stay in our beloved country.

12. On that note, with the lafaz Bismillahirrahmanirahim, I am pleased to officiate the Quantity Surveying International Convention 2017 and wish all of you every success in your deliberations.

Wabillahi Taufik Walhidayah, Wassalamualaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh.