

OPENING ADDRESS

BY THE HONOURABLE MINISTER OF WORKS MALAYSIA

Y.B. DATUK HAJI FADILLAH BIN HAJI YUSOF

FOR

THE QUANTITY SURVEYING INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION (QSIC) 2014

DATE : 18 August 2014

TIME : 8.00 pm

**VENUE : PULLMAN HOTEL
KUALA LUMPUR**

Bismillahirrahmanirrahim

**Assalamualaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh,
Salam Kegemilangan dan Salam 1Malaysia**

**YBhg Datuk Rosnah Binti Abdul Rashid Shirlin
Deputy Minister of Works Malaysia**

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

**YBhg Dato' Ir. Hj. Annies bin Md. Ariff
Director General, Public Works Department Malaysia**

**YBhg Dato' Sr Abdull Manaf bin Hashim
President, Board of Quantity Surveyors Malaysia**

**YBhg Tan Sri Dr. Ahmad Tajuddin Ali
Chairman, Construction Industry Development Board Malaysia**

**YBhg Dato' Seri Ir. Dr. Judin bin Abdul Karim
Chief Executive, Construction Industry Development Board**

**YBhg Dato' Ir. Hj. Ismail bin Md. Salleh
Director General, Malaysian Highway Authority**

**YBhg Professor Dato' Dr Hassan Said
Vice Chancellor Taylors University**

YBhg Dato' Sr K. Sri Kandan
Deputy President
Royal Institution of Surveyors Malaysia

YBhg Dato' Sr Jaafar bin Shahidan
Chairman, Organising Committee QSIC 2014

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen

1. It is indeed a great pleasure to officiate the Quantity Surveyors International Convention 2014 (QSIC 2014) and to participate in tonight's BQSM Awards Dinner, which is held in conjunction with the QSIC 2014. Let me begin by congratulating the Board of Quantity Surveyors Malaysia (BQSM), the Contract and Quantity Surveying Branch of the Public Works Department Malaysia, the Royal Institution of Surveyors Malaysia (RISM), and the Taylor's University for their efforts in organizing this Convention. I understand, this year, for the first time, a private university, Taylor's University, is taken on board to be the co-organizer of the convention. This public and private partnership between the government agencies, a professional body and a private university will undoubtedly create greater synergy in uplifting the standards of the Quantity surveying education and services.

2. The organizers have chosen a famous song title, "Wind of Change", as the theme for this year's Convention. This, I believe reflects the focus of the convention, which is to deliberate the impact that new policies and regulations of the government, as well as those arising from recent innovations in the construction industry, have on the QS profession.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

3. Bank Negara Malaysia recently reported that overall the Malaysian economy has expanded by 6.4% and that construction work done in the second quarter of 2014, recorded a double digit growth of 10.8 %, to RM 25.2 billion. This is good news for the profession as growth of the economy will increase demand for the entire spectrum of services provided by the QS.

4. On 15th of April 2014, I have signed into force the Construction Industry Payment and Adjudication Act 2012 (CIPAA) which ensures that parties in construction contracts can obtain timely payments that have been agreed in writing, the breach of which would trigger adjudication claims. Money flow, an important aspect of the sustenance of construction having been taken care of, the growth of the industry is, henceforth, unimpeded. And as, Contract administration skill is a distinct competence of the QS profession, this perhaps, is an excellent opportunity for the Quantity Surveyors to further develop themselves to offer contract management services, dispute resolution advisory and the rest. Going back to the theme of your Convention, the “Wind of Change”, you have no choice but to equip yourselves with the necessary tools, skills and competencies to be able to soar to greater heights.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

5. There is a lot of apprehension as to the effect of the Goods and Services Tax on the construction industry, and how it will affect the cost of construction. I must tell you that the authorities are feverishly working towards making the transition as easy as possible and the initial fears would be allayed once the system is in place. However, the good news is, personal tax and corporate tax could be reduced possibly by 3% to 5% over a number of years. I therefore urge you to be prepared and start getting ready for the GST.

Ladies and gentlemen,

6. One of the major innovations in the construction sector in the recent decade is **Building Information modeling** (BIM). The utilization of BIM for quantity surveying has great potential in project management as a cost management tool. As such, I am very pleased to note that the Royal Institution of Surveyors Malaysia (RISM) has embarked on several initiatives to raise BIM competency amongst the QS fraternity. I understand that RISM together with the Board of QS Malaysia has also developed an educational framework for QS graduates that will be incorporated in the curriculum for QS programs at BQSM accredited universities. I congratulate RISM for undertaking these initiatives and I am happy that CIDB is also looking into the possibility of providing financial assistance for BIM implementation.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

7. I am glad to inform the Convention that the amendments to the 3 Professional Acts, including QS Act, with a view to embrace liberalization of the Professional services, is being finalized for tabling in the October session of the Parliament. Once passed, citizenship is no more a barrier for QS from any part of the world to practice and to set up consultation services here. And similarly, our QS would also be accorded the same opportunity to take on the world. This is in tandem with the Government agenda for full liberalization of the services industry. It will attract foreign direct investments into the country, contributing to GDP growth and thus generate foreign exchange. To remain competitive, I encourage you to embark on capacity building and confidence building measures than to rely entirely on safeguard measures.

8. 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 the Nation. Let me also take this opportunity to congratulate all the recipients of the BQSM excellence awards.

9. 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 fond 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.

10. On that note, in the name of Allah the Most Beneficent and the Most Merciful, I am pleased to officiate the Quantity Surveying International Convention 2014 and wish you all every success in your deliberations.

Wabillahi Taufik Walhidayah. Wassalamualaikum