

OPENING SPEECH BY MINISTER OF WORKS
YB DATUK HAJI FADILLAH HAJI YUSOF
INTERNATIONAL CONSTRUCTION WEEK 2014
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GREATERSUSTAINABILITY IN CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY
TOWARDS 2020

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Your Excellencies Ambassadors and High Commissioners

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Distinguished Guests, Ladies and gentlemen

Assalamualaikum wbt, Selamat Sejahtera, Salam 1Malaysia
and good morning to all.

1. It is indeed a pleasure for me to be here at the
International Construction Week or ICW 2014, an annual
initiative by the Ministry of Worksthat is undertaken by its
agency, the Construction Industry Development Board (CIDB).

2. Let me first congratulate CIDB, UBM and all their partners for a remarkable effort in organising this international event which proudly celebrates its 14th year as the leading platform for the construction industry in Southeast Asia and a gathering of top industry minds and stakeholders to share new ideas, achievements and best practices.

3. I am pleased with the excellent support and response by the local and international construction industry players to ICW 2014. I am confident your presence here in Kuala Lumpur will prove to be a fruitful experience and that this event will be another great success.

4. Truly, ICW is on track to become the most important market place for the regional construction fraternity. Our collaboration with Ecobuild, the world's biggest sustainability and construction showcase, to make Ecobuild Southeast Asia as the main component of ICW 2014 is an exciting development. This will

further elevate ICW into a bigger and stronger summit for sustainable construction.

Ladies and gentlemen,

5. Southeast Asia is definitely the ideal place for the world to converge for events such as the ICW and Ecobuild. This is because Southeast Asia has been recognised as the fastest growing region in terms of economic and construction growth.

6. In a recent report, the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) projected that the economic outlook in Southeast Asia remains robust over the medium term, growing at a pace which is comparable to the pre-global financial crisis. The real GDP growth rate of this region is projected to average 5.4% per annum between 2014 and 2018.

7. I am happy to share that locally, the Malaysian construction industry has continued to outperform all other economic

sectors. In the first half of 2014, the construction industry posted a stronger growth of 14.3% against 12% in the same period of last year. The robust performance underscores the important role of the construction industry in driving the Government's Economic Transformation Programme (ETP) towards Malaysia's goal of becoming a high income and developed nation by the year 2020.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

8. Economic achievements are only part of the goal of Vision 2020. We know that achieving a developed nation status entails that we put focus not only on development, but most importantly sustainable development. A sustainable construction industry is capable of building assets that meet present day needs and that will serve generations, while preserving the environment it operates in.

9. As an industry that drives the physical development of nations, the call for sustainability must be taken seriously by the whole supply chain of the construction industry. We don't look only at builders, when we talk about sustainable construction because the process of achieving sustainable construction must begin long before the first piece of concrete is poured. In this regard, the project owner, the developer or the client plays a major role, as well as the planner, designer and the surveyor.

10. So, the construction industry players must not limit their discourses on how do they get a facility built. Instead, they must think about how to get something built, taking into account the cultural economic, environment, social, technical perspective .This is why we believe that the time is right to incorporate Ecobuild Southeast Asia into the International Construction Week, as it focusses on sustainable construction and built environment. At the ICW and Ecobuild Southeast Asia 2014 today, you will be able to see limitless possibilities when it comes to construction and sustainability.

Ladies and gentlemen,

11. Recognising that Malaysia will be able to play an important role in the global economy to achieve a more sustainable world, Malaysia has made a voluntary pledge to reduce the country's carbon emissions per GDP by 40 percent by 2020, subject to technology transfer and new additional funding from developed nations. This is equivalent to 40 million tonnes of carbon dioxide. The construction and manufacturing sectors accounts for 7 % of the country's carbon footprint, which is about 15 million tonnes of carbon dioxide. Locally, residential and commercial buildings consumes 15 percent of total national energy consumption and they are identified to be one of the key contributor of greenhouse gas emissions.

12. Sustainable construction means we must reduce the environmental impact of a building over its entire lifetime, while optimizing its economic viability and the comfort and safety of

its occupants. There are seven areas which we must improve in order to achieve optimum sustainability. They are, energy, water, food, solid waste, transportation, landscape and information.

13. In terms of energy, we must benchmark with international best practices to improve overall energy consumption of the built environment. Towards this end, the Ministry of Works, through CIDB and the Public Works department is in the final stages of introducing MyCREST. It is a Carbon Reduction Sustainable Tool or system which aims to quantify and reduce the built environment's impact in terms of carbon emissions and other environmental implications. The system takes into account energy consumption in a more holistic lifecycle view of the built environment from the design stage, to the construction and finally operations and maintenance.

14. Buildings and infrastructure should be built with water savings in mind. There are various opportunities to reduce

water consumption in the built environment such as installation of low flow taps, urinals and toilets as well as rain water harvesting. It is a shame for a country situated right in the middle of the equator and experiencing a tropical climate, to experience a water crisis. This goes to show that you can never take what you have right now for granted. By using rain water harvesting, we can use rain as a resource for many of our activities and lessen the strain on natural water resources.

15. Modes of transportation can greatly affect the greenhouse gases emissions. By constructing our cities in ways which is friendly towards pedestrians and bicycles and build efficient public transportation systems, we can reduce carbon emissions created by our daily commutes. We can also opt for more fuel efficient vehicles and cleaner fuels.

16. Landscaping is another area which we must look at in order to evaluate our sustainability. By this, I mean we must consider the impact a building will have on wildlife, wetlands and other

natural habitat. I also encourage that we adopt Xeriscaping as a landscaping philosophy, which is water wise and unique. Xeriscaping uses as many native, drought-resistant plants as possible and arranges them in ways which are efficient and water-saving.

17. Information is also a very critical factor in sustainability. The industry needs the correct information on how best we can conduct our daily tasks with the least environmental degradation as possible. The Ecobuild Southeast Asia Exhibition is where we can all get the latest information on available products, technology and methods we can all adopt to ensure that our businesses are inline with sustainable practices.

18. In this regards, I would like to urge the industry to consider setting up an industry-driven Collaborative Council on Green Technology Initiatives for the Construction Industry. The council could advise on ways to minimize environmental impacts and degradation as well as reduce carbon emissions from your

activities. You may take inspiration from the Green City of Putrajaya which is making significant progress in real green initiatives. Of course there are challenges, but together we can work towards the building of many more green cities to showcase our commitment towards sustainable development.

19. Last and certainly not the least, we must take into consideration, the financial sustainability of a building and infrastructure that we build. We must design and construct a building taking into account cost efficiency in operations and maintenance during its whole lifecycle.

Ladies and gentlemen,

20. The opportunities to embrace sustainable development is vast. I am sure you can see many of these innovative green products, materials and machineries at the Ecobuild exhibition today. Do take time to explore and learn about how we can

leverage on these innovations to step up our construction delivery.

21. These are interesting times for the industry. Not only must we build a better tomorrow, as our theme suggests, but we must build better, tomorrow. I look forward to ICW 2014 providing new ideas and partnerships in the spirit of our theme. I thank all of you for your participation and we certainly look forward to your presence again next year.

22. 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 also in the region and the world. I also hope that you benefit from this meeting of minds and market of ideas and opportunities and I hope that this conference leads to better collaboration among the industry players in Malaysia and around the region.

23. On that note, it is with great pleasure that I declare this International Construction Week 2014 Open.

Thank You.