

**MAJLIS MAKAN MALAM BERSAMA DELEGASI
INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL FOR RESEARCH AND INNOVATION IN BUILDING
AND CONSTRUCTION (CIB) ANJURAN CREAM**

ARMADA MARINA, PUTRAJAYA.

19 OCT 2015

Assalamualaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh, Salam Sehati Sejiwa and a very good evening to all of you.

Honourable Dato' Sri Zohari Bin Hj. Akob

Secretary General, Ministry Of Works

Honourable Datuk Ir. Hamzah Hasan

Chairman, Construction Research Institute of Malaysia (CREAM)

Honourable Tan Sri Dr. Ahmad Tajuddin Mohd. Ali

Chairman, Construction Industry Development Board (CIDB)

Honourable Dato' Jauhari Bin Hamidi

Acting Managing Director, Sime Darby Property

Honourable Ir. Dr. Zuhairi Abd. Hamid

Executive Director, Construction Research Institute of Malaysia (CREAM)

Honourable Dr. S. Shyam Sunder

President, International Council for Research and Innovation in Building and Construction (CIB)

Honourable Prof. Dr. Ir. Wim Baken

Secretary General, International Council for Research and Innovation in Building and Construction (CIB)

Ladies and gentlemen,

1. First of all, I would like to express my gratitude to the Construction Industry Development Board (CIDB), Construction Research Institute of Malaysia (CREAM) and International Council for Research and Innovation in Building and Construction (CIB) for inviting me to this gala dinner commemorating the CIB Meeting. I am happy that CIDB and CREAM have taken this laudable effort in initiating this landmark meeting which I believe will stimulate and facilitate cross collaboration and information exchange in the building and construction sector.
2. On behalf of the Government of Malaysia and Ministry of Works please allow me to thank and welcome all our distinguished guests from over 25 countries which reaffirms the commitment and rich diversity of the CIB members.
3. This gathering of eminent builders, academics, practitioners, researchers and strategic thinkers which includes CIB Board Members whom I have just met, have taken the time to discuss, analyse, and explore issues on sustainable development in the construction industry which is indeed significant. I am a strong advocate of this synergistic dialogue involving the public and private sectors and CIB which I am confident will build momentum towards excellence in Malaysia and the global construction industry.

Ladies and gentlemen,

4. Malaysia in gearing to be a develop nation by 2020 will need to see to it that Malaysian construction industry transform itself to meet the aspirations of the Government. Towards this end, the Ministry of Works have proactively developed the Construction Industry Transformation Programme (CITP) which was launched by the Prime Minister of Malaysia which sets important goals and milestones to bring Malaysia's construction industry to the next level. The CITP's goal which includes creating and enforcing the highest standards of quality; safety and professionalism in the construction industry; instituting more environmentally sustainable practices throughout the industry; generating high-skilled jobs and opportunities for Malaysian youth and SME's

reliance on low skilled foreign labour and increasing global competitiveness through internationalisation.

5. This goes to the heart of the Government of Malaysia's priorities in relation to infrastructure roll-out as a tool to leverage regional economic integration and development which will drive job creation, skills development and empowerment. In our national agenda to make Malaysia a high-income nation, the Government is focused on initiatives that will clearly communicate its plans in clearly defining the deliverables and outcomes for our citizens to embrace the various programmes as set out in the Economic Transformation Program (ETP) which will ensure that we are at the forefront in competing with top economies of the world. The numerous and significant programs and projects identified under the ETP will provide many opportunities for the construction industry. There are indeed many areas in which foreign companies can play active roles in this lucrative construction industry where Malaysia will continue to support enterprise through the many dedicated public sector agencies and consistent engagement with the private sector. We will also pursue policies that create an environment where builders will not only survive but thrive as Malaysia recognises the critical function of builders in developing and sustaining economic growth and wealth creation.

Ladies and gentlemen,

6. While the Government have an important role in stimulating growth, rest assured that our national growth will not be artificially stimulated as we are realistic with the demands of the building sector output. The construction sector, like all sectors of the economy, must operate at a sustainable level. It is important that organisations such as the CIB contribute actively to the process of thinking in the nurturing of the mindsets of the industry in meeting the challenges it faces and re-position itself in meeting future demands. As we readily know, sustainable construction is on track to become the mainstream of the global construction industry which is why construction industry players must not limit their discourses on building but taking into account cultural economic, environment, social and technical perspectives.

7. I believe the time is right for this gathering not just to promote Malaysia as a regional hub for sustainable construction, but also to establish research partnership and collaboration amongst industry players in the country and globally. Through comprehensive communication among industry experts on sustainable construction, I am sure we will be able to obtain the latest information on green revolution in the construction industry as well as limitless insights on green building technology that helps reduce the impacts of building on urban life and global environments.
8. 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 in tapping on Malaysia's leadership in ASEAN and that this meeting of minds will benefit us mutually.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

9. In conclusion, let me reiterate Malaysia's commitment in strengthening its country's construction industry. Realizing that the creation of a sustainable future depends on the knowledge and involvement of the people as well as an understanding of the consequences of individual actions. As such, the Government together with the industry players will continuously put forward their efforts in formulating robust strategies to improve sustainable construction knowledge and acceptance and ensure that the construction industry become more socially and environmentally responsible. I am pleased to inform that such initiatives have shown positive signs as people are becoming more conscious in the built environment which are sustainable. It is my sincere wish is that the awareness on sustainability among construction practitioners will improve exponentially in ensuring vital contribution of the industry towards sustainable development in creating a better quality of life for our future generations.

Thank you

Wabillahitaufig Walhidayah Wassalamualaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh.