



PRESS RELEASE

CIDB CALLS ON THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY TO PRACTICE SUSTAINABLE WASTE MANAGEMENT

KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 17, 2015: The Construction Industry Development Board (CIDB) Malaysia today urged the local construction industry to embrace sustainable practices in the management of waste during construction projects and demolition works.

“The construction industry is a significant generator of waste, with relatively low levels of recycling. We estimate that the construction and demolition works account for more than 30 per cent of the total waste generated in Malaysia. This certainly calls for an urgent need for us to tackle the large amount of waste produced,” said Datuk Ir. Elias Ismail, the Senior General Manager of Technology Development Sector of CIDB at CIDB’s seminar on “Towards Sustainable Construction Waste Management in Malaysia”.

“In addition to the high volume of construction and demolition waste being dumped, construction projects have issues related to high carbon emissions and energy consumption. In fact, less than two per cent of construction projects in Malaysia are rated for sustainability. This is partly due to the misconception that going green will further burden the overall cost,” he added.

As outlined within the Construction Industry Transformation Programme (CITP), which was launched by the Prime Minister, Dato' Sri Mohd. Najib Bin Tun Haji Abdul Razak in September 2015, sustainable waste management has been identified as one of the key initiatives for the domestic construction industry.

The CITP is a five-year plan aimed at transforming the construction industry to be a highly productive and sustainable sector by 2020. The programme was formulated by the Ministry of Works and CIDB with the construction industry players. It focuses on four areas: quality, safety & professionalism; environmental sustainability; productivity; and internationalisation. Under the environmental sustainability thrust, CITP aims for Malaysia's sustainable infrastructure to be a model for the emerging world.

“CIDB has recommended a number of measures under the CITP to promote a low-waste generation culture and reduce irresponsible waste during construction. For example, we are proposing that land-fill taxation mechanism be devised in order to penalise excessive waste generation and nudge players to adopt sustainable practices, as practiced in United Kingdom,” said Datuk Ir. Elias.

On top of that, CIDB has proposed that the private sector be incentivised to construct recycling centres for their projects. The government can also encourage industry players by rolling out supportive policies that recommends or requires the use of part-recycled construction materials.

Datuk Ir. Elias continued: “On our part, CIDB has amended its Act 520 (Amendment 2011), which was recently gazetted to help facilitate and regulate the growth of the construction industry. The amendment ensures greater construction quality and safety during or after the construction works in accordance to current standards.”

More than 200 participants attended the “Towards Sustainable Construction Waste Management in Malaysia” seminar hosted by CIDB Malaysia. The event provided a platform for the construction industry to share knowledge and best practices on sustainable solutions for waste management.

The one-day seminar featured nine keynote speakers, including Norhazni Mat Sari, Director of Hazardous Division, Department of Environment as well as Dr Mohd Pauze

bin Muhamad Taha, Director of Research and Technology of Solid Waste Management and Public Cleansing Corporation (SWCorp).

Over and above this, CIDB is collaborating closely with relevant stakeholders, including SWCorp, the Ministry of Energy, Green Technology and Water and GreenTech Malaysia to encourage the adoption of Green Technology in the management and utilisation of waste water treatment, solid waste and sanitary landfill in line with the National Green Technology Policy.

“It is paramount for us to collaborate with the industry to increase adoption of sustainable practices. We target to have all large infrastructure and building projects to be rated and exceed sustainability requirements by 2020. This is part of CITP’s aim to reduce the industry’s carbon footprint in support of the Government’s target to reduce the emission intensity of greenhouse gases by up to 40 per cent,” Datuk Ir. Elias concluded.

For more information, please visit www.cidb.gov.my

About CIDB

The Construction Industry Development Board was established under the Construction Industry Development Act (Act 520) to develop the Capacity and Capability of the Construction Industry Through Enhancement of Quality and Productivity by Placing Great Emphasis on Professionalism, Innovation and Knowledge in the Endeavour to Improve the Quality of Life.

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