

OPENING SPEECH BY THE MINISTER OF WORKS

MALAYSIA

INTERNATIONAL CONSTRUCTION WEEK 2015

11 SEPTEMBER 2015

PUTRA WORLD TRADE CENTRE, KL

BUILDING A GREENER FUTURE

(Salutations)

Your Excellences Ambassadors and High Commissioners

CEOs and Captains of Industry, members of the media

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and gentlemen

Assalamualaikum wbt, and a good morning to all.

1. First and foremost, I would like to thank the Malaysian Prime Minister, The Honorable Dato' Sri Mohd Najib bin

Tun Abdul Razak, for graciously agreeing to open the International Construction Week (ICW) 2015. It is a honour for all in construction industry, both local and international, to again have the Prime Minister officiate this largest, most important yearly event for the Southeast Asia construction industry. His presence here today, reaffirms the importance of the construction industry in Malaysia, in driving the nation towards the status of a high income nation by the year 2020. On behalf of the industry, Dato' Sri, I thank you for your lasting support.

2. I would like to heartily welcome all exhibitors, speakers, conference participants, and visitors from Malaysia, Southeast Asia and all around the world. Your passion towards the industry has been the force behind ICW from the very first installation.

Ladies and gentlemen,

3. This year is the 15th year that the event rounds up construction players from various parts of the world, to display their recent innovation, to share their success stories, and to build new partnerships. It is also ICW's second year collaborating with Ecobuild Southeast Asia., and Ecobuild Southeast Asia's second year in Malaysia.
4. For 2015, Ecobuild Southeast Asia will showcase sustainable designs, construction and built environment, supported by three other co-located events namely Green Build Asia, Solar Asia Expo and EcoLight Asia. These three co-located events are in line with the theme for this year's ICW which is "Building a Greener Future", as they are advocates of green technologies and innovations.
5. Apart from a myriad of displays and showcases, ICW has put together experts from a variety of backgrounds to address issues facing both local and international

construction industry. 39 workshops and seminars have been scheduled beginning yesterday, and these sessions are open to interested individuals to attend. The seminars cover a multitude of topics, which are divided into areas of construction namely building, infrastructure, and energy and power. One would be able to hear views from professionals and subject-matter experts such as those from the Institution of Engineers Malaysia (IEM), Nuclear Malaysia, REI International Holdings, and GreenRE, to name a few. These seminars not only offer thoughts and ideas, but also serve as a platform for networking for the construction personnel.

Ladies and gentlemen,

6. A number of conferences and summits are also scheduled during ICW 2015. For the first time ever, the ASEAN Construction Summit is held, among which will identify critical issues in achieving the industry's sustainable

growth and determine the future direction of the ASEAN construction industry. Meanwhile, two congregations will be held for the second time in ICW, namely the KUBINA 2015 and the AWAM International Conference in Civil Engineering 2015 (ECO-AICEE '15).

7. The KUBINA 2015, short for Konvensyen Usahanita Binaan, is a convention which pulls together the female professionals in the construction industry, and recognise their contribution and encourage higher female participation. This time round, the line-up of speakers consists of renowned “iron ladies” from multi-national companies and businesses.
8. The ECO-AICEE '15 is a platform for professionals from the industrial sectors, public organisations, research establishments and universities to come together to discuss issues and formulate recommendations where sustainable infrastructure is concerned. The theme for the

second ECO-AICEE '15 is “Propelling the Nation’s Competitiveness through Sustainable Infrastructure”.

9. Other conferences which are no less exciting and very much relevant are the International Building Information Modelling Conference, Construction Contract Management Conference for Built Environment 2015, and the Institution of Fire Engineers Conference 2015.

Ladies and gentlemen,

10. As ICW 2015 also serves as the platform to forge new business partnerships, business matching sessions are held on the first day and the last day of the event. On the first day, which was yesterday, CIDB alongside MATRADE organised a session on incoming buying missions. Tomorrow, the European Union-Malaysia Chamber of Commerce and Industry (EUMCCI) and CIDB will organise a full day, business matching session to view the potential

for European engineering, Architectural and Quantity Surveying Services in the Malaysian Construction Industry. These business matching sessions serve as good opportunities for the Malaysian companies to partner up with their counterparts not only from the European region but also from other regions, and to answer the call for Internationalisation which is one of the thrust of the Construction Industry Transformation Programme (CITP).

Ladies and gentlemen,

11. With all the excitement of the possibility of new businesses which spur from new innovations and partnerships, CIDB does not forget to acknowledge the best performers of the industry through the year 2014. The Malaysian Construction Industry Excellence Awards (MCIEA) is yet another highlight in ICW 2015, an event to applaud the outstanding efforts of companies and individuals, and to recognise the sweat, labour and pains which these players

have to undergo in supporting the local construction industry.

12. ICW 2015, however, does not stop at benefitting only the construction personnel and businesses. ICW 2015 also promotes the industry to local job seekers through the CIDB Career Fair happening throughout ICW 2015. The CIDB Career Fair aims to expose to the general public the job opportunities available in the industry. The Malaysian construction industry is heading towards high quality human capital whereby the workforce requirement will no longer be low-skilled labour. The industry will undergo a transformation which will create demand for highly skilled, mechanised labour; thus creating higher salary brackets among the local workforce.

Ladies and gentlemen,

13. I am personally excited at the programmes lined up for ICW 2015. And I hope that the event generates as much opportunities and benefits as it does excitement.

14. Before I end, I would like to thank the organising teams and their organisations for their tireless hard work. Without you, all these could never be possible. I would also like to thank all our partners from the ministries, government agencies, Chamber of Commerce, institutes, universities, organisations and companies alike for all the support that you have given ICW from the very beginning. May this installation of ICW prove to be more impactful than the previous, and may it propel Malaysia towards the vision that we aspire.

Thank you.