

**Welcome Remarks by**

**Yang Berbahagia**

**Tan Sri Dr. Ir. Ahmad Tajuddin Ali, FASc.**

**Chairman**

**Construction Industry Development Board,  
Malaysia**

**Captains of Industry Roundtable Discussion  
2018**

**Theme:**

***"A Perspective Towards Stakeholder's  
Responsibility and Safety Culture in  
Construction Industry"***

**29 March 2018**

**Conference Hall 1, Level 3, Kuala Lumpur  
Convention Centre**

***[Final salutations to be provided on event day]***

- Fellow construction industry leaders and captains
- Our distinguished guests and speakers from abroad
- Ladies and gentlemen

Assalammualaikumwarahmatullalhiwabarakatuh,  
Salam Sejahtera, Salam Negaraku and a very good  
afternoon to all present here today.

1. On behalf of the Construction Industry Development Board or CIDB Malaysia, I am pleased to extend a warm welcome to everyone here to this special event within our ICW 2018. It is a great privilege for CIDB Malaysia to once again host the Captains of Industry Roundtable Discussion. This year, our theme is: *'A Perspective Towards Stakeholder's Responsibility and Safety Culture in Construction Industry'* – a theme that reminds us of the collective

responsibility of each and every one of us here in the area of safety.

2. Before I discuss this matter further, allow me to thank the Minister of Works, **Yang Berhormat Dato' Sri Haji Fadillah bin Haji Yusof**, for taking the time to be with us today and also throughout the International Construction Week. This goes to show YB and the Ministry's commitment to work together with all of us to transform the construction industry. YB, your tireless support is truly a source of motivation for us to deliver the best to the Malaysian construction industry.
  
3. I would also like to thank our fellow construction industry players who have joined us at today's Round Table Discussion. With the line up of presentations and discussions by industry leaders from Malaysia and abroad, I am certain that we will have an engaging and enlightening session.

Ladies and gentlemen,

4. The Captains of Industry Roundtable Discussion on safety was introduced by CIDB to get the industry involved in tackling the issue of safety in the sector. Reality is, the Government and Regulators cannot succeed without the support of the industry including the workers. Safety is a collective responsibility.
  
5. In this regard, I must underscore the fact that the safety of workers is indeed the heart of the construction industry's transformation. After all, safety affects not just the workers but their well-being also impacts the community as well as the overall economic and environmental situation of the county. As such, it is imperative that we address any underlying safety issues head on, so that we can properly understand the situation

and introduce the appropriate measures to instil a safety-first culture in the industry.

6. As you may know, we are now in the third year of implementing the Construction Industry Transformation Programme 2016 – 2020 or CITP, which sets strategic outcomes and milestones to develop the Malaysian construction sector into a world-class industry. This positions us at an important juncture to ensure that we are on track to implementing its initiatives, and that we meet the targets and KPIs under each strategic thrust.
  
7. Under the strategic thrust of Quality, Safety and Professionalism, we can see that various initiatives have been carried out as planned, including those that aim to improve the level of occupational safety and health at the construction site. In fact, we are right on track to achieving the KPIs outlined in the CITP.

8. However, while we have successfully reached many of our KPIs, we continue to face the issue of accidents and fatalities at work site. In fact, going by the 2016 numbers, the fatality rates have not decreased, which begs the question of the adequacy in terms of our preventive and safety measures. We are anxiously waiting for the release of the official 2017 numbers.
  
9. Certainly, we are concerned that while we have achieved our KPIs, we have yet to translate those actions into tangible results particularly in reducing the number of accidents, injuries and fatalities in the construction industry. It is almost akin to a group of surgeons who say they have successfully performed surgery, but unfortunately, the patient died!!.

10. This reminds me of events during another phase of my career, some 20 years ago when I was tasked to look after the power sector in this country, except Sarawak, as Executive Chairman of TNB... those days of power blackouts and brownouts....
  
11. This is why, in my view, 2018 is an important year for us re-evaluate and review the KPIs to ensure the effectiveness and impact of the CITP's initiatives while we still have some 30 months of CITP implementation to go!

Ladies and gentlemen,

12. Let us start reviewing our KPIs on safety and see what else we can do to safeguard the interest of our workers in terms of their safety at site. It is our responsibility to bring the construction industry to the next level. After all, the

construction industry is driven by the workers. Organisations with the best occupational safety and health practices are often the most productive and most economically, socially, and environmentally friendly businesses.

13. As we are approaching year 2020, it is appropriate for us to review the Safety KPIs set under the CITP. We are entering the final lap of the CITP's implementation and we must ensure that all our initiatives, programmes and KPIs have a measurable impact on the overall outcome of each strategic thrust.

Ladies and gentlemen,

14. Although it may seem that we have a long way to go if we want to truly transform the industry, we have to soldier on and accelerate our growth. A change of mindset is definitely required, especially from top to bottom. We recognise that

the conscious and collective efforts of all players in the industry are vital in our resolution to improve the safety and health standards of the Malaysian construction industry, and we strongly encourage more stakeholders to play an active role in instilling a culture of safety.

Yang Berhormat Dato' Seri, Tan Sri-Tan Sri, Datuk-Datuk, Ladies and Gentlemen,

15. Those are my thoughts on this subject. I hope we can focus our discussion on this crucial aspect of our industry. I conclude my remarks by, please let me express my appreciation once again to the Minister of Works, **Yang Berhormat Dato' Sri Haji Fadillah bin Haji Yusof** for chairing today's Round Table Discussion, and to all our guests and speakers, please do have an engaging and productive discussion ahead.

Thank you.