

Welcome Remarks

Yang Berbahagia

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CIDB Malaysia

Townhall:

“The Way Forward for IBS in Sarawak”

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**Dewan Santubong, Pusat Konvensyen CIDB Sarawak, Kuching,
Sarawak**

Assalamualaikum warahmatullahi wabarakatuh, Salam Sejahtera, and a very good morning to all of you here today.

1. I am pleased to extend a warm welcome to all of you to this Townhall Programme for Bumiputera IBS Contractors, entitled "The Way Forward for IBS in Sarawak". CIDB is honoured to be organising this event, where industry players can come together to discuss how the construction sector can face the challenges of today and move forward confidently into the future.
2. Let me take this opportunity to also thank all of our panel speakers, especially Ms Sarah Bachmann who has joined us all the way from National Precast Concrete Association Australia to share your expertise in IBS. It goes without saying that we are

very fortunate to hear from these leaders and I am confident that it will be an enlightening knowledge sharing session ahead of us.

3. Last but not least, let me bid a warm welcome to all our townhall participants and exhibitors as well. I am confident that we will have an enriching discussion ahead of us. We are indeed privileged to have specialists and leaders in the field with us here today to share on the various topics on IBS and productivity in the construction industry. I would like to also encourage each and every one of you to participate in discussions and exchange ideas with our speakers.

Ladies and gentlemen,

4. This Townhall, themed “the way forward for IBS in Sarawak,” is a prime platform for construction industry players, government and IBS training providers in Sarawak to share experiences and gather feedback from stakeholders. It also provides exposure to the latest research regarding the development of the IBS Industry and the use of modern construction methods in the construction industry in Sarawak. The exhibition component provides the opportunity for participants to network with IBS producers and industry players from across Malaysia.
5. As a key contributor Malaysia’s economy, it is necessary for the construction sector to continuously improve and expand its capabilities in order to keep up with the times and remain competitive and productive in the face of global challenges. CIDB Malaysia is tasked with transforming Malaysia’s construction sector into one that is highly-modern, productive and sustainable, as envisioned under the Construction Industry Transformation Programme (CITP) 2016-2020.
6. The CITP identifies four strategic thrusts to prepare the Malaysian construction sector for the future, which are:
 - i. Quality, Safety & Professionalism
 - ii. Environmental Sustainability

- iii. Productivity
- iv. Internationalisation & Competitiveness

7. The ultimate goal of the CITP is to transform Malaysia into a developed nation with a high-income economy, by generating the multiplier effects from a robust and resilient construction sector.
8. Under this Productivity strategic thrust, our goal is set to achieve more than 2.5 times increase in industry productivity by year 2020 at RM62,000 per capita worker per year. This is from the baseline productivity of RM22,464 per capita worker per year in 2011. To achieve this goal, among the initiatives to enhance productivity as stipulated in the CITP are to increase:
- i. The implementation of IBS;
 - ii. The implementation of Building Information Modelling (BIM); and
 - iii. Competency development in high impact trades in construction industry.

As such, our discussion on IBS today is an important step in the effort to raise construction industry productivity levels.

9. IBS presents many benefits for the construction industry, such as a shorter time frame to completion; more cost-efficiency and higher productivity, enhanced quality of work, and reduced impact to the natural environment. I think we can all agree that these are the end results we are all looking for in construction sector.
10. However, I do acknowledge that there are challenges to IBS adoption. These include:
- a. Logistics issues;
 - b. Shortage of IBS providers;
 - c. An undeveloped IBS materials ecosystem;
 - d. Shortage of IBS design consultants; as well as,
 - e. Poor perception of IBS leading to poor demand.

11. As such, a key aim of our session today is to provide industry players and stakeholders a platform to share experience and expertise on the latest technologies in IBS. As we gain more knowledge, we can gain more confidence to adopt the IBS methodology, and work towards finding a solution to these issues that are standing in the way of meaningful and necessary change.

Ladies and gentlemen,

12. Finally, let me say that it gives me great pride to see representatives from both the public and private sectors present today's IBS Townhall, which goes to show the commitment and enthusiasm to transform the sector among all stakeholders. I am confident that we have much to talk about in today's Townhall and I invite you all to participate fully in the conversation as we have experts from Malaysia and abroad present here to share their wealth of experience.

13. Once again, thank you all for your presence and participation at this Townhall today. I am confident that you will find this a fruitful and informative event.

14. Thank You.

Wabbilhitaufiq Walhidayah Wasalamualikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh.