

WELCOME REMARKS BY

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23RD ASIACONSTRUCT CONFERENCE

WELCOME RECEPTION

8 OCTOBER 2018
THE WATERFRONT HOTEL, KUCHING, SARAWAK

[Final Salutations to be provided on event day]

Members of the AsiaConstruct delegation,
Distinguished guests,
Ladies and gentlemen,

Assalamualaikum warahmatullahi wabarakatuh, and a very good evening to all of you.

1. On behalf of the Construction Industry Development Board or CIDB Malaysia, I am pleased to extend our warmest welcome to our distinguished delegates and guests from all over the region. *Selamat datang*. I do hope you have been enjoying our wonderful Malaysian food, and of course, our warm hospitality.
2. Please allow me to say that it is indeed a great privilege for CIDB Malaysia to once again host the AsiaConstruct Conference, which is now in its 23rd

installment. I am pleased to have with us experts and delegates from seven countries this year: Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Sri Lanka, and Malaysia too.

3. With Malaysia having hosted AsiaConstruct in Langkawi and Kuala Lumpur back in year 2000 and 2009 respectively, this time around I am proud to welcome you to Sarawak, the “Land of Hornbills”, in Borneo Island. These birds are an important cultural symbol for the indigenous *Dayak* culture, as they are believed to bring good luck to the local community.
4. Sarawak is making great strides in its economic development, blessed by its wealth in natural resources including oil and gas, timber and unique flora and fauna. Its natural abundance also enables harvests from plantations, hydropower and solar power. The state is also seeing inclusive development projects such as the construction and upgrading of various infrastructure. Most notably is the construction of the 2,325 km Pan-Borneo Highway, of which 786 km of the route will span in Sarawak.
5. Sarawak’s capital, Kuching, is unique in its charm, and it is the ideal base from which to appreciate and explore the state. Not only is Kuching’s city centre well-preserved and compact, but also quite a number of world-famous attractions are easily accessible from here.
6. These include national parks such as the famous **Bako**, home of the rare proboscis monkey; **Kuching Wetlands**, which protects a fascinating mangrove ecosystem; **Iban and Bidayuh longhouses**; and even relaxing **beaches** and resorts. [I understand that the secretariat has provided a guide on famous attractions for you to explore the state.](#)
7. I must note that we are based at very convenient location in Kuching—the Waterfront—and taking in the sights and sounds around town will just be a stone’s throw away. In fact, after our conference tomorrow, we have a little treat in store for all of you: we will be enjoying the evening on the Sarawak River Cruise, indeed a novel way to wrap up the Conference!

8. Furthermore, I also look forward to our technical visit to the Regional Corridor Development Authority or RECODA on Wednesday. Through this visit we will have the opportunity to gain valuable insights into its efforts in its plan to stimulate investment-led growth in the Sarawak Corridor of Renewable Energy or SCORE.
9. With these major construction projects underway in the state, and the natural charm of the land and its people, we are very fortunate to be able to host all of you at this year's AsiaConstruct Conference in beautiful Sarawak.

Ladies and gentlemen,

10. Before I conclude, let me once again put on record my appreciation to all of you for being here with us at the 23rd AsiaConstruct. I look forward to meeting and learning from all of you.
11. While we have an exciting schedule ahead of us, let us take this evening to settle in and "break the ice". Have a great evening ahead.

Thank you.

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