

PRESS RELEASE

CIDB PROPOSES CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE TO DRIVE SUSTAINABLE INFRASTRUCTURE

PUTRAJAYA, Jan 7, 2015: The Construction Industry Development Board (CIDB) Malaysia is taking the lead to transform local practices and enhance capacity to deliver sustainable infrastructure, an issue that has come under intense focus following devastating year-end floods in the country.

CIDB is proposing the establishment of a Centre of Excellence (CoE) for Sustainable Infrastructure under the Second Construction Industry Master Plan which is in the final stages of being drafted, Chief Executive Dato Sri Dr Ir Judin Abdul Karim said when addressing a CIDB-organised seminar on planning for a better future through sustainable infrastructure here today.

Describing sustainable infrastructure as the “bedrock” to promote better living conditions and community wellbeing, Dr Judin said it went beyond just building physical structures like a highway, bridge or tunnel.

“Sustainable infrastructure involves planning, designing, procurement, construction, operating and maintaining of structural elements in ways that do not diminish the social, economic and ecological processes required to maintain human equity, diversity, and the functionality of natural systems,” he said.

The proposed CoE will provide a world class platform to collaborate with renowned researchers and research institutions, conduct training and knowledge-sharing, provide consultancy and accreditation to enhance the capacity of the Malaysian construction industry to deliver sustainable infrastructure both at home and abroad.

Dr Judin said the year-end floods that affected several states clearly illustrated the importance of sustainable infrastructure to ensure the future socio economic prosperity of the country was achieved.

"I am certain that from the aftermath of the flood in the East Coast States, as a nation, we will be able to identify infrastructure that not only will alleviate the flood recurrence but also address other needs of the community," he added.

Renowned sustainable development experts, Prof Spiro N.Pollalis of Harvard University and Professor Ahmad Farhan Mohd Sadullah of Universiti Sains Malaysia, were the key speakers at the one-day seminar aimed at identifying new directions and to nurture support for sustainable infrastructure.

Prof Pollalis, who is the director of the Zofnass Program for Sustainable Infrastructure at Harvard, shared his thoughts on sustainable infrastructure and its role to sustain the competitiveness of nations.

Prof Ahmad Farhan, who is dean and professor in transport studies at USM's School of Civil Engineering, highlighted the need for an enabling framework to support sustainable infrastructure in the country.

Last year, Works Minister Datuk Fadillah Yusof and a CIDB delegation visited the Zofnass Program to explore best practices in sustainable infrastructure planning and systematic assessment.

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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.