

**WELCOMING REMARKS BY**  
**TAN SRI DR IR AHMAD TAJUDDIN ALI**  
**CHIARMAN OF CIDB MALAYSIA**  
**INTERNATIONAL CONSTRUCTION WEEK 2017**  
**13 APRIL 2017**  
**KL CONVENTION CENTRE**

TOWARDS ENHANCING QUALITY AND SAFETY IN CONSTRUCTION

Your Excellencies 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, on behalf of the construction industry players and stakeholders in Malaysia, I would like to thank the Minister of Works, Yang Berbahagia Dato' Sri Haji Fadillah Yusof for being with us today to officially open The International Construction Week 2017, with the theme Towards Enhancing Quality and Safety in Construction.
2. It is with great pleasure that I welcome all of you, distinguished guests, construction industry players, stakeholders and captains of industry, to the International Construction Week 2017 – the 17th installment of ICW! I do believe it is your passion and commitment to the industry development that has been the driving force behind ICW from the very first event.

Ladies and gentlemen,

3. The ICW is the Premier Annual Event for the Construction Industry in Malaysia and Southeast Asia. And for the past four years we have been partnering with UBM Malaysia to bring Ecobuild Southeast Asia, the world renowned showcase for the built environment, as the exhibition component of the ICW. We have learnt over these years that a truly meaningful and successful event can materialise when we partner with other organisations which bring with them their own knowledge and expertise.

4. I am delighted to share that the ICW 2017 is organised with 34 strategic partners among government agencies and industry associations. Each of our partners organise various activities and programmes within the ICW which will contribute towards the advancement of the construction industry through the sharing of knowledge and experience as well as promotion of the construction industry to the future generations.
  
5. Let me take the opportunity to walk you through what we have on offer this whole week. First, we have a series of conferences which started on the 10 of April. The first event was a Seminar titled “Towards Excellence in Construction – Beyond Accolades”. It is a platform for winners of the Malaysian Construction Industry Excellence Awards (MCIEA) to share their knowledge and experience with the industry. On the second day, we have two-full day conferences – there was “the 8th Malaysia Construction Summit” organised by the Master Builders Association (MBAM) which focussed on “Redefining profit and value-creation through Quality and Safety” and “Konvensyen Usahanita Binaan Malaysia” organised by the Ministry of Works, with the goal to enhance women’s role in the construction industry.
  
6. This is followed on the third day by “Construction Contract Management by Excellence – Construction Dispute Avoidance: The first Line of Defence in Contractual Dispute Management and Resolution”. Today, to coincide with the opening ceremony of ICW, we have the “International Construction Safety Leadership Conference”, organised by the CIDB and Department of Occupational Safety and Health (DOSH) which has started this morning. The conference features speakers

with vast experience in the implementation of Construction Design Management, which puts safety and health as the top priority from the design stage.

7. In addition to the full-day conferences, we have free-to-attend 1 hour seminars on various topics within the Ecobuild Southeast Asia show floor. In all, there are 46 topics of seminars presented by 26 organisations. Among interesting topics we have on offer is the “Internet of Things” (IoT) in Construction presented by the Institute of Engineers Malaysia (IEM), New Frontiers in Timber Engineering by MyGlam Sdn Bhd and Fire Safety Strategy in Healthcare Industry by The Institution of Fire Engineers Malaysia (IFEM).

Ladies and gentlemen,

8. Apart from hosting s series of seminars and conference, the ICW also serves as the platform for companies to forge new partnerships and business opportunities especially on the international front. In line with this objective, MATRADE and CIDB had once again joined hands in organising an international sourcing mission. The two organisations had brought 10 international buyers from Cambodia, Myanmar, Vietnam and Indonesia and matched them with 32 local companies. In all, 89 meetings had been conducted yesterday at the Hospitality Lounge, in KLCC.
9. Apart from addressing the needs of the present construction industry players, we also have in store, programmes specifically designed for the future generation of the construction industry. First, we have the Open Ideas Competition organised by the Malaysian Structural Steel Asociation (MSSA) and CIDB, which invites engineering

and architectural students from universities to compete in designing a building or structure following a specific theme every year. The theme for this year is Youth Dome in Steel. We also have for the first time in ICW a Chemical Research Paper Competition postgraduate students, which is organised by the IEM.

10. Last and certainly not the least, we have the Construction Career Fair, with the objective to showcase various opportunities in skills trade in the construction industry. The youths can look at various training programmes and for those who are trained, they can look at work opportunities in the career fair. I am made to understand that the Career Fair itself is also designed to be jam-packed with activities from demos to competitions and it promised to satisfy the inquisitive mind of our young ICW visitors!
11. So there, I laid out the week's programme and I am certain that whatever interest you have in construction, you will be sure to find it in ICW2017. With your participation, we look forward for ICW this year to be a raving success!
12. Before I leave you, I would like to say a few words on the topic of quality and safety. Being the chairman of SIRIM and also CIDB, you will understand why quality and safety are two subject matters which are very close to my heart. To many people, Quality is something that they as individuals always demand for, but seldom deliver when it comes to their own work. Quality is also the main criteria which separates those who are passionate about their businesses from those who are in it only for the money. Customers may buy from anybody, but they will continue buying from those who continuously deliver quality products and services.

13. On the issue of safety, construction mishaps which had caused lives of construction workers and also members of the public in recent years should be a wake up call for the whole industry. We all know that there can be no good enough reason for a construction tragedy to happen. Yes, ensuring safety requirements is fulfilled will require monetary expenses. But a senseless construction mishaps can cause loss of reputation to the companies involved and also to the whole industry. And this, cannot be repaired easily. But most importantly, we must think about lives that have changed forever because of a workplace injury -- families, friends, communities and coworkers too. So, imagine that it is you or someone you love working at a construction site -- your own children perhaps. Would you effort in ensuring safety at the construction site be the same as what you have today? Or will you be much more vigilant? Are you doing enough to ensure safety in your projects? I shall leave you to ponder your answers to the questions.
14. Before I end, I would like to thank the Honourable Minister of Works, Dato' Sri Fadillah Yusof for his presence today. I also would like to thank the organising team and all of our ICW 2017 partner organisations for their support and commitment in making ICW a successful event, year after year.

Thank you.