

**SPEECH
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**FOR THE MOU SIGNING
BETWEEN
CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT BOARD MALAYSIA
(CIDB)
AND
SARAWAK ENERGY BERHAD (SEB)**

16 August 2022

Salutations to be provided on event day

Assalamualaikum warahmatullahi wabarakatuh and Salam Sejahtera.

1. First and foremost, I would like to express my sincere thanks to the Premier of Sarawak The Right Honorable Datuk Patinggi Tan Sri (Dr) Abang Haji Abdul Rahman Zohari Bin Tun Datuk Abang Haji Openg, for allocating some time for his packed schedule to witness the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Construction Industry Development Board of Malaysia (CIDB) and the Sarawak Energy Berhad (SEB).
2. I also would like to congratulate CIDB Malaysia and Sarawak Energy for coming out with an MoU that will not only benefit both organizations in achieving their respective objectives, but will be setting new opportunities and benchmark in the construction industry, particularly in Sarawak.

Ladies and gentlemen,

CIDB Role

3. As you may be aware, CIDB Malaysia is the regulator of the Construction Industry, established under the Construction Industry Development Board Act 1995, also known as Act 520. Through Act 520, CIDB is mandated to be the regulator while also holding the responsibilities of developing the construction industry in Malaysia.

4. In its regulatory role, CIDB enforces the registration of contractors and construction personnel, as well as accreditation of skilled construction workers. In addition, CIDB enforces the construction material verification to ensure that construction materials being used in projects meets the standard specification and use for the material.
5. On the other hand, in its role to develop the construction industry, CIDB provides training for contractors and construction personnel on various trades and specialisations, as well as in supervision and management of construction projects. CIDB, in collaboration with industry stakeholders have also developed various tools to measure the performance of construction projects in terms of Safety and health, environmental sustainability and quality. Through these tools, industry players can measure their project performance and the performance of their contractors and subcontractors towards continuous improvement against a national benchmark.

SEB Role

6. Sarawak Energy Berhad is a state-owned energy development company and a vertically integrated power utility provider for the whole of Sarawak.
7. I understand that Sarawak Energy is highly involved in the physical development of hydro-electric dams to ensure the supply of electricity in Sarawak and also power the surrounding regions in the future. Thus, the CIDB and SEB collaboration that will be inked today will definitely come a long way in ensuring SEB projects will run smoothly and meet its overall objectives.

Points of Collaboration

8. I was informed that one of the most important collaboration between the two organisations is in developing the much needed manpower of the construction industry. SEB huge construction projects requires a large number of workers which needs to be registered, trained and accredited. Through this collaboration, CIDB will be able to organise registration, training and accreditation to be conducted at the remote site, in order to minimise project disruption, time and logistic costs.
9. The scope of collaboration covers the training, assessment and accreditation of 100 plant and crane operators, 200 scaffolders and

80 construction site supervisors for a total of 20 SEB projects by CIDB.

10. In return SEB, being the owner of huge infrastructure projects, have agreed to provide industry apprenticeship placement for up to 100 people who have completed their training from CIDB-owned training academy, Akademi Binaan Malaysia (ABM).
11. Specifically, this initiative is important for the state of Sarawak. This cooperation between CIDB and SEB will help to develop a highly-skilled local workforce, who will bring with them a significant positive impact on productivity and also the quality of each project in the state.
12. Increasing the number of skilled workers in the industry will also help create better employment prospects for the locals. This in turn will help spur the local economy of the state and stem the out-migration of youths.
13. In addition to capacity building and manpower development, the collaboration also covers programmes to measure SEB projects against national industry benchmark and best practices. At least 40 SEB-appointed contractors will receive training in the Safety and Health Assessment System in Construction (SHASSIC) and Quality against Assessment System in Construction (QLASSIC). SEB will also implement the Sustainable INFRASTAR rating for its infrastructure projects. Sustainable INFRASTAR acts as a design and measurement tool to ensure consideration on sustainable elements are incorporated early on in the development of a project. By implementing these tools, SEB will not only establish a benchmark within its own projects. It has the opportunity to establish a high score benchmark for the whole state of Sarawak!

Ladies and gentleman,

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14. As a key component of the economy, the construction industry needs to be resilient to challenges for both today and tomorrow. This is especially important today as countries around the world are currently

experiencing a labour crunch and are upgrading their industry's best practices and technologies to remain resilient.

15. In our digital age, the adoption of new technologies and methodologies is no longer an option but a necessity in our quest to enhance the productivity of the construction industry. Construction industry players who adopt new technologies and methods of working have the potential to emerge even stronger in the coming economic recovery and growth.
16. Through the collaboration today, SEB can set the benchmark in utilising the latest technology in project implementation which can showcase the use of technology in huge infrastructure projects. This can be a very important national learning experience which other industry players can learn from.
17. Towards this end, CIDB will work closely with SEB officers in providing exposure and training on the latest technology such as Building Information Modelling (BIM), 3D printing and Internet of Things (IoT) just to name a few. Implementation of the latest technology in huge infrastructure projects can be a game changer in the push for technology in the construction industry.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Conclusion

18. The MoU signing that we are about to witness today will mark a very important moment, where a strategic collaboration between the federal and state agencies will bring much benefit towards achieving the overall industry development aspirations. Instead of working in silo, this collaboration allows the two agencies to leverage each other's strengths, expertise and resources to better achieve common objectives.
19. As such, I applaud the efforts by CIDB and Sarawak Energy today to collaborate in enhancing the capacity, capability and best practices of the construction industry, particularly in Sarawak.
20. Let me once again congratulate CIDB Malaysia and SEB for embarking on this meaningful collaboration. I believe that this cooperation between CIDB and SEB certainly will strengthen the efforts to ensure Malaysian construction projects are managed and

executed by qualified and competent professionals, especially in projects that SEB are involved in.

21. I am confident that this will contribute significantly towards creating a future-ready workforce that is able to keep in step with the industry's technological advancements.

22. Before I end this speech, let me reiterate my sincere appreciation and thanks to The Right Honorable Datuk Patinggi Tan Sri (Dr) Abang Haji Abdul Rahman Zohari Bin Tun Datuk Abang Haji Openg, the Premier of Sarawak for his presence and show of support for this event today.

Thank you.