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"BUILDING A BIG DATA COMMUNITY FOR CONSTRUCTION IN MALAYSIA"

STATISTICS, INDICES IN CONSTRUCTION AND AUTOMATION (SICA)
FORUM 2018

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BERJAYA TIMES SQUARE HOTEL, KUALA LUMPUR

Distinguished guests,

Members of the media,

Ladies and gentlemen,

Assalammualaikum warahmatullalhi wabarakatuh Salam Sejahtera and a very good morning to all of you.

1. On behalf of the Construction Industry Development Board (CIDB) Malaysia, I am pleased to welcome to all of you to today's *Statistics, Indices in Construction & Automation Forum, or SICA Forum 2018*. CIDB is honoured to be organising and hosting this event, where industry movers and shakers can come together to discuss how to move the Malaysian construction sector forward.

2. I would also like to extend my sincere welcome and appreciation to Yang Berhormat Tuan Baru Bian, the Minister of Works. Thank you YB for taking time from your busy schedule to be present with us here today. With your strong support, the team at CIDB will continue to strive for excellence and succeed even further.   More importantly, we look forward to YB's keynote address later. I

believe YB will be highlighting the importance of creating a construction sector data ecosystem that will fully capitalise on the benefits that Big Data Analytics is able to bring.

3. In this regard, the theme for SICA 2018 is "**Building A Big Data Community For Construction In Malaysia"**.I would like to reiterate that CIDB is fully committed to work with the industry to uplift the standards and quality of the construction sector, and Big Data is one of the game changers for the industry that will allow us to thrive beyond that time frame.

4. Please also allow me to take this opportunity to thank our SICA Forum 2018 supporting partners, namely:

- *Royal Institution of Surveyors (RISM);*
- *Master Builders Association Malaysia (MBAM);*
- *Pertubuhan Arkitek Malaysia (PAM);*
- *Association of Consulting Architects Malaysia (ACAM);*
- *Institute of Value Management Malaysia (IVMM);*
- *Institute of Engineers Malaysia (IEM);*
- *Association of Consultancing Engineering Malaysia (ACEM);*
- *Asia Pacific University of Technology & Innovation (APU);*
- *Ipsos Sdn Bhd*
- *The Royal Institution of Surveyors, Malaysia (RICS);*
- *Real Estate and Housing Developers' Association Malaysia (REHDA)*

5. I would also like to thank all the panel speakers and seminar participants, as well.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

6. In line with today's theme of **Building A Big Data Community For Construction In Malaysia**, SICA Forum 2018 is an important platform for industry stakeholders to openly engage with one another. The aim is to create awareness, disseminate information and discuss the challenges of shifting towards data-driven decision-making and strategies to increase the productivity of the industry.

7. Through the SICA Forum, stakeholders have the opportunity to:

   • **Firstly – enable effective collaborations.** This is the platform to build networks with institutions supplying quality big data to the construction industry. You can also exchange knowledge and experiences with big data analytics in the construction industry;

   • **Secondly – gain deeper insights.** I invite you to immerse yourself in the discussions about how Big Data is making a huge difference in business efficiency, especially within the construction industry. Gain insights into how you can make better decisions in your business strategy or construction management with Big Data analytics; and

   • **Thirdly – promote data-driven policy and business planning.** The move towards evidence-based decision-making in the construction industry is necessary to drive its continued growth and improvement. As such, I urge you to identify the key takeaways you can apply from today.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

8. The world today is changing very fast. Technology is disrupting industries at a rate like never before. Hardly more than five years ago, Malaysians were complaining about unreliable taxi service. Today, taxis are quickly going the way of the dinosaurs with the rise of ride hailing apps like Grab. Barely five years ago, online shopping was not very user-friendly. Today, e-commerce in Malaysia is projected to hit RM114b by 2020 contributing 6.4% to Malaysia's GDP, according to US consulting firm AT Kearney. Even traditionally conservative industries like

finance and investment is not spared. Fintech companies are steadily chipping away at finance companies' business share with mobile-only stock trading and peer-to-peer lending sites.

9. As such, for the construction sector to continue to survive and thrive, we must embrace technology and automation. The concept of big data analytics is not new. Organisations have been using data analytics to gain useful insights for decades. What is new is the technology, which brings speed and efficiency to analytics. It used to take a business months or years of work to gather information, run analytics and unearth useful information that could be used for future decision-making. With Big Data analytics today, businesses can identify insights to make immediate decisions. This ability to work faster gives organizations the agility to stay relevant and competitive in a fast-changing world.

10. Big data technology has been applied in various industries all over the world. You have probably noticed big data at work when you open up your social media and you find that there are product recommendations waiting for you that seem to be just what you were thinking about recently. That's because the social media platform is using Big Data analytics based on your browsing history to identify the trends that would interest you.

11. Besides marketing to customers, big data is also used in diverse industries, such as health care, where doctors access big data analytics tools to arrive at evidence-based decisions instead of having to arrive at diagnoses quickly. Big data is also being used in the transportation sector, for example in the areas of revenue management, logistics and route planning to save on costs and time. The securities industry relies on big data for applications such as anti-money laundering, demand enterprise risk management, and fraud mitigation.

12. For the construction industry, the use of Big Data is becoming essential to reduce construction times and costs. For example, a study carried out by the Southern Alberta Institute of Technology (SAIT) in Calgary, Canada calculates that using Building Automation Modelling (BIM) during construction projects can result in a cost reduction of 20%.

13. Systematic use of Big Data is central to quickly deriving the insights necessary for speedy decisions on solving problems, reducing costs, implementing safety rules, organizing production processes in the most efficient way possible.

14. For the purpose of enabling accurate and effective evidence-based decision making across the industry - with the aim of building up the industry into one that is modern, highly productive and sustainable - there needs to be a central source of credible and reliable industry data. To this end, CIDB is advocating industry-wide data sharing, with in a central repository at the core.

15. With access to a credible and reliable source of data, industry players will be able to become more efficient and effective when implementing their business decisions, deciding their cost estimations and above all, improve productivity and profitability across the entire value chain.

16. This is in line with the Construction Industry Transformation Programme 2016 – 2020, or CITP, which is the catalyst to transform Malaysia into a developed nation with a high-income economy, by generating the multiplier effects from a robust and resilient construction sector.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

17. *Collaboration* is the first Enabler in the CITP. Your presence here today is a positive step towards sharing of data, knowledge and experience to ensure our industry continues to progress. I invite you, as key stakeholders of the industry, to work together with CIDB and other agencies and stakeholders to make our industry even more data-driven, in order that it will become more efficient, productive and progressive. Let us drive construction excellence together.

18. Once again, let me put on record my appreciation to Yang Berhormat Tuan Baru Bian for gracing today's event and to all our partners for making this event a success. And once again, thank you all for your presence and participation at SICA Forum 2018. I am confident that you will find SICA Forum 2018 a fruitful and informative session, especially the discussions regarding the use of big data analytics in your strategies and decision-making.

19. Thank you.

20. Wabbilhitaufiq Walhidayah Wasalamualikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh.

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