

**Welcoming Speech**  
**YB YUSUF BIN ABD WAHAB**  
**CHAIRMAN**  
**CIDB MALAYSIA**

**OPENING CEREMONY ICW & BUILDXPO 2023**

**16 NOVEMBER 2023**  
**MITEC, KUALA LUMPUR**

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**[Salutations to be provided on event day]**

Distinguished guests, industry partners, members of the media, ladies and gentlemen,

It is my pleasure to welcome all of you to the International Construction Week 2023.

1. To our esteemed Minister of Works, we extend our heartfelt appreciation for your presence today and for being an inspiration to all of us through your dedication and commitment in the continuous development of the construction industry. Your presence here not only elevates our collective spirit but also strengthens our resolve to achieve new heights of success.

2. With that spirit, I extend my warmest welcome to our distinguished guests who have gathered here today. In particular, I would like to acknowledge the presence of the Minister of Infrastructure, Housing & Urban Development from Zambia, the Honorable Engineer Charles Milupi, who have traveled far and wide to join us at this prestigious event.

3. Amidst the challenges of the past, including the formidable COVID-19 pandemic, the construction industry demonstrated resilience and determination. Even with the hurdles, CIDB Malaysia was able to successfully organize the International Construction Week virtually. This ensured that the spirit of innovation and collaboration continued to thrive, despite the adversity faced.

4. This year, in its 22nd edition, International Construction Week returns, more robust and vibrant than ever. We are genuinely delighted to host this event on a physical platform here at the Malaysia International Trade and Exhibition Centre (MITEC) in the heart of Kuala Lumpur.

5. To make this year's ICW even more special, we are thrilled to present BuildXpo - Malaysia's own International Building Construction Industry Showcase. It is a grandiose exhibition covering the whole supply chain of the construction industry, meticulously organized by our exhibition partner, QUBE Integrated Malaysia Sdn Bhd.

6. In this inaugural BuildXpo, we are witnessing over 200 exhibition booths from more than 50 participating companies, all eager to showcase their

groundbreaking innovations. We anticipate at least 10,000 trade visitors to attend and explore in person, the latest trends, developments, and technologies in the construction industry.

7. It is imperative to mention that, in collaboration with MATRADE, BuildXpo is hosting a Buyers Programme uniting 13 buyers from six countries, namely Kazakhstan, Vietnam, Cambodia, Philippines, Thailand, and Hong Kong in prearranged meetings throughout the duration of ICW and BuildXpo.

8. At this point, I would also like to express my gratitude to:

- a. MCC Overseas (M) Sdn Bhd as the ICW and BuildXpo's Strategic Partner; I also would like to acknowledge MCC's effort in collaborating with CIDB in many initiatives especially in promoting the use of technology and robotics in construction.
- b. Our thanks and appreciation also goes to Petronas, Gamuda, YTL, MRCB;
- c. and to Government Agencies like MARA and MTIB for showcasing their latest innovations in construction.

Your support plays a pivotal role in making ICW 2023 a success.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Prepare to be enthralled by the exciting lineup of activities at ICW & BuildXpo 2023.

9. We commenced ICW 2023 with the pre-event, CIDB-CIOB Youth Arena Convention 2023, on 20-21 October, with the theme “Sustainable Development Goals (SDG): Shaping the Future of Construction.” It was a fantastic opportunity for young professionals to share their innovative ideas and contribute to the sustainable development of our industry.

10. Subsequently, the International Construction Transformation Conference (ICTC) was successfully held on 14-15 November, where we explored the latest trends and developments in the construction sector.

11. The DigitAll Forum Series by the Construction Industry Research Centre (CREAM) held on 15 November, delved into the impact of digitalization on construction processes.

12. Currently, two parallel sessions of Open Forum are hosted within the BuildXpo area from 15 to 17 November. This interactive platform will allow you to engage with industry experts and discuss pressing issues facing our industry.

13. Additionally, I would like to highlight the Open Ideas Competition by the Malaysia Structural Steel Association prize presentation ceremony on 17th Nov, where we will recognize and celebrate innovative ideas in the industry.

14. Following ICW, we are hosting *Konvensyen Perintis Transformasi* with the theme *Dasar Pembinaan Negara 2030: Mendigitalkan Sektor Pembinaan*.

This convention will provide a platform to discuss Malaysia's construction policy and its alignment with the national ESG agenda.

## **Conclusion**

15. With such an exciting array of activities, I am confident that the discussions, presentations, networking, and collaborations unfolding over these days will provide invaluable knowledge and insights.

16. To our respected participants and visitors, I urge you to wholeheartedly engage in the multitude of events and activities available. Immerse yourselves, absorb knowledge, and foster collaborations, as it is through these meaningful interactions that our industry not only evolves but thrives. Undoubtedly, ICW & BuildXpo 2023 promises to be an unforgettable experience for everyone involved.

17. So, let's roll up our sleeves and craft a future for our industry that is unparalleled in its innovation and progress!

18. On behalf of CIDB, I would like to extend my greatest appreciation to all members of the organizing committee who have worked superbly hard and committed in ensuring that the ICW 2023 a successful event.

Thank you, and we extend our best wishes for a remarkably productive and successful event.