



OFFICIAL OPENING SPEECH

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**OFFICIAL OPENING OF INTERNATIONAL
CONSTRUCTION WEEK (ICW) & BUILDXPO**

2025

Theme: “Constructing the Future of ASEAN”

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Lumpur**

[Salutations to be provided by the Secretariat]

Salam Sejahtera dan Salam Malaysia MADANI.

Welcome

1. It is my great pleasure to welcome you to the 27th International Construction Week (ICW) and the third edition of BuildXpo, here at MITEC, Kuala Lumpur. Allow me to begin by congratulating CIDB Malaysia for its leadership in organising this landmark event, and to thank all our industry partners and collaborators for their unwavering support. Your collective commitment continues to shape the future of Malaysia's construction sector.

Constructing the Future of ASEAN

2. This year's ICW takes place during a pivotal moment — Malaysia's ASEAN Chairmanship in 2025. Aptly themed "Constructing the Future of ASEAN," the event echoes our shared aspiration to build a region that is sustainable, digital, and inclusive. Across ASEAN, infrastructure remains a cornerstone of progress. The Asian Development Bank estimates that ASEAN requires about USD 2.8 trillion in

infrastructure investment between 2016 and 2030 — roughly USD 184 billion annually.

3. Under Malaysia's ASEAN stewardship, the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) Strategic Plan 2026–2030 aligns the region's infrastructure goals with global sustainability standards — fostering resilience and regional connectivity for a low-carbon, future-ready ASEAN.

Connecting with ASEAN 2025 Outcomes

Ladies and gentlemen,

4. As many of you know, the 47th ASEAN Summit concluded just yesterday here in Kuala Lumpur — right before we convene this very event. The timing could not be more meaningful. Malaysia's successful hosting of the Summit, under the theme "Inclusivity and Sustainability," reaffirmed ASEAN's collective commitment to shared growth, resilience, and unity.

5. A landmark highlight was the formal admission of Timor-Leste as ASEAN's 11th member state — the region's first expansion since the 1990s. This milestone marks a renewed era of inclusiveness and opportunity. For our sector, it signals the opening of new frontiers in sustainable infrastructure development and cross-border collaboration.

6. The Summit also underscored ASEAN's growing global relevance — with the attendance of key world leaders, including U.S. President Donald J. Trump, whose presence symbolised strong international interest in the Indo-Pacific's development agenda. Malaysia's warm reception of global partners reflects our readiness to engage constructively, while maintaining ASEAN centrality.

7. Another notable outcome was the signing of a peace accord between Cambodia and Thailand, which reinforced ASEAN's role as a platform for diplomacy, stability, and connectivity. It reminds us that infrastructure — from bridges to highways — is more than physical progress; it is the foundation of peace, prosperity, and partnership.

8. In this spirit, ICW 2025 becomes more than another event. It is a continuation of the momentum built at the ASEAN Summit — translating regional aspirations into tangible industry actions.

Driving National Progress

9. Domestically, Malaysia's construction sector remains a key driver of national development and growth. Under the 13th Malaysia Plan (13MP), the Government has set aside RM 430 billion in development expenditure over the next five years — averaging RM 86 billion annually — to accelerate sustainable infrastructure, affordable housing, and regional connectivity. More than half of this allocation is directed to the economic sector, with RM 93.9 billion earmarked for less-developed states, ensuring that no region is left behind.

10. These investments are reflected in our national performance. According to Bank Negara Malaysia and the Department of Statistics, the construction sector grew by 14.2 % in Q1 2025, with the value of work done reaching RM 42.9 billion. That momentum continued in Q2 2025, where the

value of work done climbed further to RM 43.9 billion, representing 12.9 % year-on-year growth.

11. Across the first half of the year, total construction activity reached RM 86.8 billion — a 14.7 % increase compared with the same period last year. This growth was driven mainly by the private sector, which accounted for over 63 % of total work — signalling strong investor confidence in Malaysia's construction and infrastructure outlook.

12. Regionally, the distribution of activity is also encouraging:

Selangor led with RM 9.7 billion (22 %), followed by Johor (RM 7.7 billion, 17.5 %), Sarawak (RM 5.2 billion, 11.9 %), and the Federal Territories (RM 4.2 billion, 9.5 %). This pattern reflects our continued effort to ensure that development and growth are inclusive and nationwide.

13. Major projects such as the ECRL, East Klang Valley Expressway, Mutiara LRT Line, and LRT3 Shah Alam continue to strengthen connectivity and opportunity — while new focus areas like sustainable urban transport, renewable

energy, and rural infrastructure advance our green and equitable development agenda.

Navigating a Changing Landscape

Ladies and gentlemen,

14. Globally, the construction industry continues to evolve amidst geopolitical shifts, supply chain disruptions, and rapid technological transformation. In Asia, the challenges are familiar — skilled labour shortages, rising material costs, and climate pressures. Yet, the industry has proven resilient and adaptive. Even as over 70 % of developers reported rising operational costs, and 60 % faced labour and material constraints, Malaysia's construction sector continues to anchor domestic investment and sustain growth, as affirmed in Bank Negara's Financial Stability Review H1 2025.

Transformation through Policy and Innovation

15. The Ministry of Works, through CIDB Malaysia, continues to drive transformation through the National Construction Policy 2030 and the Construction 4.0 Strategic Plan.

16. **Our key priorities include:**

- Expanding BIM and IBS adoption to enhance productivity and efficiency;
- Strengthening the green construction agenda to support Malaysia's net-zero emissions target by 2050; and
- Investing in skills development and inclusive workforce participation, especially among youth and women in construction.

These initiatives position Malaysia as a regional hub for sustainable, innovative, and digitally driven construction.

New Initiatives to be launched at ICW 2025

17. In line with this vision, I am pleased to announce several key initiatives to be launched at this ICW 2025 opening ceremony stage:

- The first is the **Construction Digital Management Index (CDMI)** – It is a framework designed to evaluate and benchmark contractor's digital readiness. It will enable contractors to assess their company's level of digital maturity against industry benchmark. I would like to urge all contractors to participate in the study by CIDB and MBAM by responding to a questionnaire which you can access through a QR code that is available at the foyer and at the CIDB website;
- Secondly, we will the MoU between CIDB and Lembaga Perumahan dan Hartanah Perak (LPHP) – A partnership to strengthen sustainable housing and infrastructure development in Perak through the use of CIDB's rating tool for quality workmanship (QLASSIC), safety guidelines conformance at construction site (SHASSIC),

sustainability in building projects (MyCREST) and infrastructure projects (INFRASTAR);

- Congratulations to Lembaga Perumahan dan Hartanah Perak for showing full commitment to the people in the state by ensuring that projects are delivered with quality, safety and sustainability in mind;
- **SustainBuild Mark (SB Mark)** – A comprehensive eco-product certification evaluates Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) performance, aligning with ISO 14024 standards, developed by the Construction Research Institute of Malaysia (CREAM)
- **Small Facilities Embracing Resilient Innovation (SFERA)** – A grassroots innovation platform empowering small and medium contractors to co-create scalable, practical solutions for site challenges; and
- These initiatives reflect our unwavering commitment to innovation, sustainability, and inclusivity — ensuring that every segment of the industry grows together.

Collaborating for Impact

18. ICW 2025 offers a powerful platform for dialogue and collaboration — uniting professionals, policymakers, and innovators. Through flagship conferences such as the International Construction Transformation Conference, Digital Construction Summit, Women Way Forward, and the BINA Modular Asia Forum, industry leaders are shaping ideas that will define the next era of construction.

Appreciation & Closing

19. Before I close, I wish to record my sincere appreciation to CIDB Malaysia, Qube Integrated Malaysia, and all our partners involved in organising ICW & BuildXpo 2025.

20. A special thank you to our Key Industry Partner, Gamuda Berhad, for its leadership in advancing innovation and sustainability. We also acknowledge all industry stakeholders, associations, exhibitors, speakers and organisers of all the programmes happening throughout the week. This collaboration demonstrates the unity and strength of Malaysia's construction community.

Ladies and gentlemen,

21. As we embark on this new chapter of ASEAN cooperation and national renewal, let ICW & BuildXpo 2025 be the platform where ideas become action, and partnerships become progress.

22. With that, it gives me great pleasure to officially declare open the International Construction Week and BuildXpo 2025.

Thank you.

ENDS