

**SOFT LAUNCH OF  
INTERNATIONAL CONSTRUCTION  
WEEK (ICW) & BUILDXPO 2025**

**THEME: CONSTRUCTING THE  
FUTURE OF ASEAN**

**26 FEBRUARY 2025, MITEC**

**Officiating Speech**

**DATO' SERI AZMAN BIN IBRAHIM**

**SECRETARY GENERAL**

**MINISTRY OF WORKS MALAYSIA**

*(SALUTATIONS TO BE UPDATED ACCORDINGLY)*

Salam Sejahtera, Salam Malaysia MADANI.

1. It is with great pride that I stand before you today at the Soft Launch of International Construction Week (ICW) & BuildXpo 2025. This year marks a significant milestone as we celebrate the 27th edition of ICW, reaffirming the construction industry's critical role in national development, economic resilience, and technological progress.

2. ICW has been Malaysia's premier platform for construction excellence for over two decades, fostering collaboration, innovation, and sustainability. BuildXpo, co-organised by CIDB Malaysia and Qube Integrated Malaysia Sdn. Bhd., strengthens this ecosystem by serving as a dynamic trade and business platform.

3. As Malaysia assumes the ASEAN Chairmanship in 2025, ICW & BuildXpo 2025 will showcase our leadership in driving a sustainable and innovative construction industry. This show stands as a testament to our collective efforts in addressing regional challenges within the construction landscape and its auxiliary sectors, while unlocking new opportunities for growth. We are committed to building a resilient and forward-thinking construction sector for ASEAN."

## **A Thriving Construction Industry Driving Economic Growth**

4. Today, I am proud to highlight Malaysia's construction industry's strong performance, reaffirming its role as a key driver of economic growth.

5. In 2024, Malaysia's construction industry achieved a record-breaking RM219.7 billion in awarded projects, spanning 17,953 developments nationwide. This represents a substantial increase from RM153.6 billion in 2023, underscoring the industry's role as a key driver of economic growth. The sector also maintained its strong momentum into 2025, with 419 projects worth RM7.4 billion awarded in January alone. Furthermore, the construction GDP growth surged to 19.9% in Q3 2024, reflecting investor confidence and an industry-wide commitment to innovation and sustainability.

6. Malaysia remains steadfast in its commitment to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG 9: Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure, SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities, and SDG 13: Climate Action. This commitment is evident through our investment in mega infrastructure and high-value projects that drive economic growth while prioritising environmental sustainability and community well-being.

7. Among the most significant developments in the past year is the RM4.27 billion biorefinery facility in Johor, which supports sustainable industrialisation and green technology adoption. Additionally, major road upgrades in Sarawak, Sabah, and Negeri Sembilan enhance regional connectivity while promoting safer, more resilient transport infrastructure.

8. Furthermore, key residential and commercial developments in Selangor, Pahang, and Penang align with our national agenda for affordable housing, urban sustainability, and low-carbon construction practices, ensuring that Malaysia's construction growth trajectory remains sustainable, inclusive, and future-ready.

## **ICW Borneo 2025: Strengthening Regional Development**

Ladies and gentlemen,

9. It is a privilege for all of us to witness the growth and evolution of ICW as it continues to elevate Malaysia's standing as a leader in ASEAN's infrastructure development.

10. This year, I am pleased to announce that for the first time, ICW will expand to include ICW Borneo 2025, which will take place from 13–14 May 2025 at the Borneo Convention Centre Kuching (BCCK), Sarawak.

11. ICW Borneo will carry the theme, “Innovative Construction for a Sustainable Future”. It will spotlight the rapid development taking place in Sarawak, Sabah and throughout Borneo, which consist of mega construction projects driving Malaysia and ASEAN’s sustainable development goals; for example, development for major infrastructure projects and renewable energy solutions to accelerate economic growth in East Malaysia.

12. This dedicated edition will play a pivotal role in fostering regional development and strengthening Malaysia’s construction sector at both the national and ASEAN levels.

### **Building a Resilient and Future-Ready Industry**

13. The construction industry is the backbone of Malaysia’s economic growth, shaping our cities, highways, and sustainable living environments for future generations. However, we must acknowledge and address the challenges ahead—ranging from labour shortages and rising material costs to climate concerns and the pressing need for digitalisation.

14. To ensure a prosperous and resilient future, we must:
- a. Invest in talent development and upskilling, ensuring Malaysia's workforce is equipped for a digital-first, technology-driven future;
  - b. Strengthen public-private partnerships (PPPs) to drive sustainable, large-scale infrastructure projects across the country;
  - c. Foster cross-border collaborations, leveraging ASEAN's collective potential to elevate the region's construction industry.

15. With ICW & BuildXpo 2025, we are not just showcasing innovation—we are building a movement towards a smarter, greener, and more forward-thinking construction sector.

### **Conclusion: A Call to Action**

Ladies and gentlemen,

16. I am confident that ICW & BuildXpo 2025 will continue to drive the momentum for innovation, sustainability, and industry transformation, ensuring Malaysia's construction industry remains a powerhouse in ASEAN.

17. On behalf of the Ministry of Works Malaysia and CIDB Malaysia, I extend my deepest appreciation to the partners who continue to support us like Gamuda – the platinum sponsor of BuildXpo 2024, exhibitors, and delegates who are instrumental in making this event a success. I urge the construction industry captains and players to lend their support to making ICW and BuildXpo 2025 a success and showcasing the best of what our nation has to offer.

18. May ICW & BuildXpo 2025 serve as a catalyst for new ideas, international partnerships, and long-term growth. With that, I officially declare the return of International Construction Week & BuildXpo with the theme “Constructing the Future of ASEAN”, strengthened with the addition of ICW Borneo themed “Innovative Construction for a Sustainable Future.”

Thank you.