

**WELCOMING SPEECH FOR ICW BORNEO
2025**

**YB DATO SRI ALEXANDER NANTA LINGGI
MINISTER OF WORKS MALAYSIA
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Salam Sejahtera,
Salam Malaysia MADANI,
Salam Sarawak Maju Makmur,

Ladies and gentlemen,

INTRODUCTION

1. It is a great honour for me to welcome all of you to **International Construction Week (ICW) Borneo 2025**, held for the very first time in East Malaysia, and right here in the vibrant city of **Kuching, Sarawak**.

2. I would like to express my deepest appreciation to YAB Premier of Sarawak Datuk Patinggi (Dr) Abang Haji Abdul Rahman Zohari Bin Tun Datuk Abang Haji Openg for gracing this landmark event with his presence, which truly reflects the State Government's strong commitment to advancing sustainable infrastructure and innovation in the region.

3. This moment is more than symbolic. It reflects our nation's deep commitment to inclusive growth, equitable development, and recognising the growing significance of East Malaysia in driving innovation, infrastructure, and sustainability.

4. As we take on the role of **ASEAN Chair in 2025**, it is only fitting that this journey begins in Borneo—a region rich in resources, bold in vision, and central to Malaysia's future-proof infrastructure agenda.

WHY ICW BORNEO MATTERS

5. ICW has long been a platform for showcasing industry excellence, bringing together key players to explore new ideas and technologies. But **ICW Borneo 2025**, themed “*Innovative Construction for a Sustainable Future*”, marks a new chapter.

6. This is not just an industry gathering—it is a strategic convergence of minds, markets, and missions. The two-day programme offers more than just dialogue. It offers direction.

7. We are here to explore how construction can be reimagined in the face of climate change, rapid urbanisation, technological disruption, and the urgent call for sustainable development across Southeast Asia.

SHOWCASING SARAWAK’S LEADERSHIP

8. Sarawak is leading by example. Through landmark initiatives like the **Post-COVID Development Strategy (PCDS) 2030**, the state has made clear its vision of becoming a developed economy powered by data, driven by innovation, and committed to environmental sustainability.

9. From the **Pan Borneo Highway** to the **hydrogen economy and floating solar farms**, Sarawak’s ambition and action are aligned with our national goals and ASEAN’s broader regional priorities. I believe Sarawak is not only building infrastructure—it is building the future.

HIGHLIGHTS OF ICW BORNEO 2025

10. Among the flagship components of this year's programme is the **Construction Sustainability Summit**. Held over two days, the Summit features thought-provoking sessions with industry leaders and policymakers. These include:

- *The Hydrogen Revolution: Sarawak's Pathway to a Green Energy Economy;*
- *Driving Sustainable Growth Through Clean Power;*
- *Innovations in Construction and ESG Strategies;* and
- *Green & Innovative Construction Materials*, featuring speakers from Atelier One, Atelier Ten, Green School Bali, Gamuda, and Rubner Timber Engineering.

11. This Summit sets the tone for how we can embed sustainability into the DNA of construction—through policy, design, technology, and materials.

12. *Among the keynote addresses, we are honoured to welcome YB Datuk Amar Haji Awang Tengah Ali Hasan, Deputy Premier of Sarawak, who will speak on "Transforming Sarawak: Advancing Sustainable Construction and Renewable Energy for a Greener Future."*

13. *We're also privileged to hear from Dr Ir Resdiansyah, Senior Advisor from the Executive Office of the President of Indonesia, who will deliver his keynote titled "Indonesia Rising: The Next Frontier for Construction and Infrastructure."*

14. Throughout the Summit, we will also dive deep into some of the most pressing topics and regional priorities through a series of thematic sessions. One of these will focus on Sustainable Mega Projects and Green Energy, featuring experts from Sarawak Energy, SEDC, and Cahya Mata Cement. Together, they will unpack exciting developments around the hydrogen economy, clean power, and smart construction technologies.

15. We'll also explore Innovations in Construction and ESG with insights from Gamuda and Rubner Timber Engineering highlighting how large-scale infrastructure projects can harmonise growth with environmental responsibility. And finally, we'll take a global perspective on Green and Innovative Construction Materials, featuring two pioneers in sustainable design: Prof Neil Thomas MBE of Atelier One and Prof Patrick Bellew RDI of Atelier Ten, both based in London.

16. Another key component is the official trade showcase, **BuildXpo Borneo**:

17. Featuring **over 20 exhibiting organisations**, BuildXpo presents cutting-edge construction technologies, materials, and systems tailored to Southeast Asia's evolving infrastructure needs. Here, visitors can engage with AI-powered tools, modular construction systems, smart building solutions, and green innovations.

18. This year, I'm pleased to note **increased international participation**, including from **China**, highlighting the growing ASEAN–China cooperation in infrastructure and technology exchange.

19. Last but not least, ICW Borneo also plays host to several **Strategic Seminars & Technical Meetings**. These include:

- The Construction Revolution 4.0 (CR4.0) Seminar, focusing on 12 transformative technologies—from BIM and AR to robotics and blockchain.
- Facility Management Certification seminars and project manager upskilling workshops, aimed at enhancing professional standards across the industry.
- The ASEAN Build Construction Working Group Meeting, where policy and industry leaders collaborate on regional development strategies.

20. These forums are not just platforms for display—they are **platforms for connection and transformation**, and are key to helping us shape a more integrated, forward-looking ASEAN construction ecosystem.

CIDB & THE MINISTRY'S VISION FOR THE FUTURE

21. The Ministry of Works, through **CIDB Malaysia**, is committed to transforming Malaysia's construction sector into one that is **resilient, digital, and ESG-aligned**. As Minister of Works, I am deeply committed to ensuring that **Sarawak and Sabah are integral to our national construction development strategy**.

22. We are moving with purpose—through the **National Construction Policy 2030**, the **Construction 4.0 Strategic Plan**, and cross-sector initiatives to:

- Accelerate BIM and IBS adoption

- Drive digitalisation and smart infrastructure planning
- Build industry-wide capacity through training, reskilling, and inclusive participation
- Foster public-private partnerships that deliver long-term impact

23. I commend CIDB Malaysia, under the leadership of **Puan Zainora Zainal**, for actively expanding its reach in East Malaysia through training programmes, regulatory support, and capacity-building.

A CALL TO ENGAGE, COLLABORATE, AND LEAD

Ladies and gentlemen,

24. ICW Borneo 2025 is just the beginning of an exciting chapter.

25. Let this be the spark for new partnerships, bold strategies, and actionable change. Let us move forward not just with ambition, but with alignment—between policy, industry, and community.

26. As we step into our role as ASEAN Chair, let us reaffirm our leadership by example. And let Sarawak be the starting point of that example.

27. Together, we can construct a future that is not only built to last—but built to inspire.

CLOSING

28. In closing, I would like to once again congratulate CIDB Malaysia, Qube Integrated Malaysia, the Sarawak State Government, and all our partners and exhibitors for making this event a reality.

29. **ICW Borneo 2025 is not just a milestone for Sarawak—it is a milestone for Malaysia and for ASEAN.** Let us build on this momentum to create a construction industry that is fit for the future: smart, sustainable, and inclusive.

With that, I officially welcome you to **ICW Borneo 2025**.

Thank you.