



OFFICIAL OPENING SPEECH

BY

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SOFT LAUNCH OF INTERNATIONAL CONSTRUCTION

WEEK (ICW) & BUILDXPO 2026

Theme: "Beyond Limits"

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MITEC, Kuala Lumpur

Bismillahirrahmanirrahim.

Assalamualaikum warahmatullahi wabarakatuh, and a very good morning.

[Salutations]

1. The Esteemed
Sr Ahmad Farrin Mokhtar
Senior General Manager, CIDB Malaysia

2. The Esteemed
Ts. Naidatul Mazidah Latif
Senior General Manager, CIDB Malaysia

3. The Esteemed
Mr Richard Teo
Executive Chairman, Qube Integrated Malaysia, Event Partner for International Construction Week (ICW) and Organiser of BuildXpo 2026

4. The Esteemed
Mr Michael Wilton
Chief Executive Officer, MMI Asia Private Limited Company and Organiser of Glasstech Asia & Fenestration Asia (GAFA) 2026

Government Officers, ICW Strategic Partners, Members of Media, Ladies and Gentlemen

[Opening]

1. It is my pleasure to join you this morning for the soft launch of **International Construction Week (ICW) and BuildXpo 2026**, including the announcement of **ICW Borneo 2026**, which will take place in Sabah.

2. While today's event marks an early milestone, it is nevertheless an important one. A soft launch such as this sets the direction, establishes intent, and sends a clear signal to the industry about where we are headed and how we intend to move forward together.

[State of the Construction Industry]

Ladies and gentlemen,

3. The construction industry today is operating in a very different environment compared to even a decade ago. We are facing increasing project complexity, rising costs, tighter timelines, sustainability pressures, and a growing demand for skilled and future-ready talent.

4. At the same time, technological advancements are rapidly reshaping how buildings and infrastructure are planned, designed, constructed, and managed. Digital tools, data-driven decision-making, and new construction technologies are no longer optional; they are becoming fundamental to competitiveness and resilience.

5. This means that the industry can no longer afford to operate within traditional boundaries or silos. To remain relevant and sustainable, we must be prepared to transform.

6. From the Ministry of Works' perspective, this transformation is already being guided through national policies such as the **National Construction Policy 2030**, which emphasises productivity, digitalisation, sustainability, and global competitiveness for Malaysia's construction sector.

7. These priorities are further reinforced under the **13th Malaysia Plan**, where infrastructure development, climate resilience, and digital transformation remain key national drivers.

8. Looking ahead, the forthcoming **Construction Action Plan 2030**, which will be launched later this month, will translate these

policy aspirations into more actionable industry initiatives, ensuring progress is not only planned, but implemented.

9. Platforms such as ICW therefore play an important role in connecting policy direction with industry practice.

[Building on the Success of ICW & BuildXpo 2025]

Ladies and gentlemen,

10. The International Construction Week has been a premier annual platform for the construction industry since its inception in 1999. Over the years, it has grown into a key meeting point for industry players in Malaysia and across the region to showcase innovations, exchange knowledge, and explore emerging opportunities.

11. ICW & BuildXpo 2026 builds on the strong momentum of previous years, particularly last year's edition themed **“Constructing the Future of ASEAN”**.

12. Held in conjunction with Malaysia's ASEAN Chairmanship, ICW & BuildXpo 2025 successfully positioned the construction

industry as a key enabler of regional growth, connectivity, and sustainability. It brought together policymakers, industry leaders, and solution providers from across ASEAN to exchange ideas, share best practices, and explore how the built environment can support the region's long-term development.

13. Last year's event attracted **15,987 industry professionals and trade visitors over three days**, with BuildXpo 2025 achieving approximately **RM1.41 billion in potential sales** through business matching sessions, hosted buyer programmes, and on-site transactions.

14. This success clearly demonstrated two things: first, the critical role of the construction sector in shaping ASEAN's future; and second, the importance of platforms like ICW in fostering meaningful collaboration beyond national boundaries.

[Theme 2026: "Beyond Limits"]

15. This year's theme, **"Beyond Limits"**, builds directly on those aspirations.

16. While last year focused on constructing the future of ASEAN, this year challenges the industry to go further – to push boundaries in how we innovate, collaborate, and digitalise, and to translate vision into action.

17. “Beyond Limits” reflects the need for the construction industry to move:

- beyond conventional construction methods,
- beyond fragmented supply chains,
- beyond manual and low-productivity processes, and
- beyond business-as-usual thinking.

18. It calls on the industry to embrace **new technologies, smarter infrastructure solutions, and deeper technical knowledge exchange** – all of which are essential in driving a resilient and sustainable future for the built environment.

[ICW Borneo 2026 – Bridging East and West Malaysia]

19. I would also like to highlight the importance of **ICW Borneo 2026**, which will be held in **Kota Kinabalu, Sabah**, in May this year, marking the second edition of ICW Borneo.

20. Following its inaugural edition in Kuching, Sarawak last year, the decision to alternate the event to Sabah reflects a deliberate effort to bridge East and West Malaysia and ensure that industry development and access to knowledge are inclusive nationwide.

21. ICW Borneo serves as an important platform to elevate regional participation, strengthen industry capabilities beyond the Klang Valley, and foster closer collaboration across states and regions.

[ASEAN and Regional Relevance]

22. At the regional level, ICW and BuildXpo continue to position Malaysia as a convenor within ASEAN, a place where ideas, technologies, and expertise from across the region can converge.

23. As ASEAN economies continue to grow and urbanise, opportunities for collaboration in infrastructure development, sustainable construction, and innovation will only increase. Platforms such as ICW help facilitate these connections and strengthen regional partnerships.

[Acknowledgement and Closing]

24. Before I conclude, I would like to commend **CIDB Malaysia**, together with **Qube Integrated Malaysia and MMI Asia**, for their strategic collaboration and commitment in driving ICW & BuildXpo 2026 forward.

25. Your collective efforts reflect a shared vision to position ICW not merely as an industry event, but as a catalyst for progress, innovation, and meaningful collaboration.

Ladies and gentlemen,

26. The future of construction will not be defined solely by the structures we build, but by how intelligently, sustainably, and collaboratively we build them.

27. If we are to remain competitive, resilient, and regionally relevant, we must continue to push boundaries, embrace innovation, and work together across sectors and borders. Platforms like ICW & BuildXpo are essential in helping us move in that direction.

28. With that, it is my pleasure to mark the **soft launch of ICW & BuildXpo 2026**, and I look forward to seeing these initiatives continue to grow in impact, influence, and contribution to Malaysia's construction industry and the wider ASEAN region.

Thank you.

Wabillahi taufik wal hidayah,

Wassalamualaikum warahmatullahi wabarakatuh.