

# SHOWCASE OF INNOVATIVE PRODUCTS, SERVICES AND STRATEGIC ALLIANCES IN CONSTRUCTION

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**T**HE International Construction Week (ICW) 2014, taking place from Sept 17 to 23 at the Putra World Trade Centre in Kuala Lumpur is recognised as a forum covering the full spectrum of the construction industry.

The event boasts seminars and conferences aimed at disseminating information and boosting the capabilities of participants.

This year's event is expected to attract some 15,000 delegates from the industry. It will feature the Ecobuild Southeast Asia exhibition, a programme providing sustainable building solutions.

The event was first held in 1998 and known as the National Construction Week. In line with industry growth and expansion to include international players and projects, the event was renamed ICW in 2004.

It will be a busy and exciting week for delegates, exhibitors and visitors to ICW 2014 with a slew of seminars, conferences and exhibitions taking place.

In the past, ICW has demonstrated that it offers the best platform

for construction industry leaders and policymakers to showcase and learn about innovative products and services, as well as build alliances and secure business partnerships.

The International Construction Conference 2014, jointly organised by the Chartered Institute of Building (CIOB) and Universiti Teknologi Mara, is among the many conferences taking place at ICW 2014.

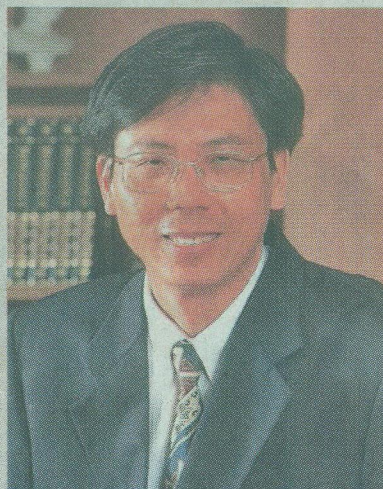
Themed "Sustainability — Building a Better Tomorrow", it looks into the challenges of global mega projects.

The conference aims to promote, impart and enhance knowledge and practices related to sustainability to improve efficiency, productivity and competitiveness.

CIOB president Ong Bok Siong says the institute has been organising the event, targeted at anyone with links to the construction industry, for 13 years.

It highlights include conference papers, technical papers, a mini exhibition as well as a post-conference site visit.

To showcase the Malaysian perspective, Veritas Design Group principal and chief executive officer David Mizan Hashim will talk about "Penang Sentral: Transportation Mega Project in the NCER" while the talk by Universiti Putra Malaysia Adjunct Professor of Architecture Dr Tan Loke Mun is titled "A



**Ong Bok Siong**, president of the Chartered Institute of Building

Sufficient Tomorrow".

University of Reading construction management Professor Roger Flanagan will present a paper on "Malaysia's Competitiveness in the Construction Sector — New Challenges for Sustainability" while Westinghouse Electric Company Business and Project Management vice-president Gary Urquhart will speak on "Critical Factors and Challenges in the Designing and Construction of Nuclear Power Plants".

Technical papers will be presented by Pierre A. Favre from Sika Kimia Sdn Bhd and Sheriffah Khamseah 'Al-Idid, who will focus on the nuclear supply chain.

There will also be a paper on "Asia Aerospace City" by Atkins Hong Kong studio design director Ian Milne.



**Mustazah Khalid** of the Malaysian Structural Steel Association

Building information modelling is a new technology in construction that allows builders to develop a model in digital form before construction.

CIDB Information Technology Division senior manager Mohd Harris Ismail says this new technology will make the industry more effective and efficient in terms of cost and time saved.

The International BIM Day 2014 on Building Information Modelling, themed "The Future is Here" is a one-day conference designed to increase the awareness about this new technology among construction industry players.

The conference features presentations by BIM consultant Bilal Succar, who will speak on "Strategic BIM

Adoption within Organisations and Across Markets"; researcher and professor in the area of construction Heng Li, who will touch on "PCMS: Connecting BIM to Reality"; Prestariang Berhad founder and chief executive officer Dr Abu Hasan Ismail on "Towards Sustainable and Scalable Capacity Building for BIM"; CIDB's Harris on "Building Information Modelling — A Malaysian Agenda" and BRE group director Nick Tune on "BIM Implementation by the Public Sector".

Harris says increasing awareness is the main goal of the conference.

"We would like to see more industry players in the country adopt this method."

It is important, he adds, for local industry players to keep themselves abreast of development in the field to remain competitive and relevant globally.

The Malaysian External Trade Development Corporation (Matrade) will be present at ICW 2014 to conduct business-matching activities.

These are pre-arranged business meetings to introduce and initiate talks among local companies with parties from abroad.

Matrade Trade and Services Promotion Division manager for special projects Hasnita Mohd Hassan says 12 buyer companies from five countries — Qatar, India, the United Kingdom, Japan and Saudi Arabia — have expressed interest to conduct business with local companies at ICW 2014.

Representatives from these companies will





**Tan Sri Dr Ahmad Tajuddin Mohd Ali** with the representatives from partner organisations involved in ICW at a press conference recently.

meet about 50 local companies at the event.

The Malaysian Structural Steel Association (MSSA) will present the winners of the Open Ideas Competition, an annual event it organises for final-year undergraduates in local universities.

This year's competition, with entries from 15 universities, required contestants to design a community centre that could be converted into a disaster relief centre under an hour.

Mustazah Khalid from MSSA says the competition encourages creativity and innovation among the younger generation, especially students joining the construction industry upon graduation.

The award ceremony will be held on Sept 17. The association is also hosting the MSSA Roundtable on Sept 18, where the future of the steel industry in Malaysia will be discussed.

It will touch on university-

industry linkages in research and commercialisation as well as research and consultancy for the sustainable steel construction industry.

With the focus on new sources of energy globally, nuclear energy has emerged as one of the alternative sources of energy.

Nuclear Malaysia Innovation and Nuclear Advocate Sheriffah Noor Khamseah Al-Idid says there are some 435 nuclear power plants in 30 countries. Seventy-two are under construction, of which 28 of are in China, says the International Atomic Energy Agency.

This accounts for the generation of 16 per cent of the world's electricity.

"In view of these developments, there are significant business and investment opportunities in the nuclear power sector and the nuclear supply chain," Sheriffah says.

"Phenomenal global population growth and the rapid pace of economic

expansion have resulted in an upsurge in global energy demand. Projections suggest that by 2030, energy demand in the world will increase by 45 per cent and electricity consumption by 75 per cent."

She says the construction of nuclear power plants has different construction requirements from other types of construction.

"We want to boost the capabilities of local construction players who want to venture into this market."

Nuclear Malaysia will conduct free seminars on nuclear energy and the opportunities for the construction industry to boost awareness among construction companies and industry players about opportunities in the nuclear power sector.

Contractors and stakeholders in the construction industry are expected to share the opportunities and challenges in the nuclear supply chain as well as introduce new and advanced

construction methods in the construction of nuclear power plants.

Another important part of the agenda is the focus on the roles and functions of nuclear-related organisations in Malaysia in the planning for deployment of nuclear energy for power generation under the ETP, and technical support services for nuclear power plants and the construction industry.

Nuclear Malaysia director-general Datuk Dr Muhamad Lebai Juri will speak on technical support services for nuclear power and the construction industry while director Dr Abdul Nassir Ibrahim will delve into certification of NDT personnel involved in industrial plant construction.

Sheriffah will present a technical paper on the nuclear supply chain during the International Construction Conference.

There will also be a paper by Westinghouse Electric Company on its experience in the designing and construction of nuclear power plants.







