

GREEN DESIGN FORUM INTRODUCTION

Good morning, Honourable Minister, and all Green Design Forum participants.

A special warm welcome to Senator the Hon Penny Wong, for taking time from her very short private visit to Kuala Lumpur, to be with us this morning, especially since this is her first vacation after her election late last year.



Joining the Honourable Minister on stage is:

- Mr Andrew Ford, Acting High Commissioner of Australia
- Ir Dr Abdul Majid Dato' Abu Kassim, President of the Association of Consulting Engineers Malaysia, ACEM, and
- Ar Lee Chor Wah, President of Malaysian Institute of Architects, or Pertubuhan Akitek Malaysia, PAM.

I am the Deputy President of PAM, Boon Che Wee, and the Convener of this Forum.

Climate Change

During registration earlier this morning, we have shown a selection of award winning Malaysian Eco Films on environment and climate change.

One of them features a man discovering that he is able to control climate change instantly, escalate it or reverse it, by simply controlling the setting of the air-cooling unit in his house – the message is clear that how we live now, and what we build now, affect the environment instantly, for better or for worse.

These short films are to remind us of the issue that we are addressing in this forum – **climate change**, and if I may quote the Minister: "Climate change is not a distant and abstract problem, it is with us today. Our test of responsibilities lies with us today, because what we do today will determine whether we are prepared for tomorrow." I look forward to hearing more from the Minister on this subject later...

Climate Change and Green Buildings

Green Building Index Malaysia is a profession driven initiative to lead Malaysia towards a more responsible built-environment, for now and for the future.

With the realisation that the built environment contributes significantly to climate change over the entire lifetime of all buildings, Green Building Rating was conceived in the 1990s, to guide developers, development and building professionals, contractors, owners, managers and end users on the impact of their choices to the environment.

In recent years, Malaysia has been introduced to Green Building Ratings originating from UK, USA, Australia, Japan and Singapore.

However, a green building rating system by its nature is very dependent on the local environment, including climate, resources and current state of development.

As Malaysia differs markedly in these areas with these countries, our rating criteria must be customised accordingly.

Our rating priorities, for example, need to acknowledge our shortcoming in public transportation, which may have lesser emphasis in the rating from another country with a better-developed public transportation network.

With increasing demand and expectation, especially from Malaysian and Multinational Companies with CSR objectives that call for them to support only environmentally friendly initiatives, the need for Malaysia's own Green Building Index became more evident.

Green Building Index Malaysia

In August 2008, PAM decided to form a committee headed by PAM Past President Ar Dr Tan Loke Mun, with the primary task to develop Green Building Index Malaysia, and the formation of a Green Building Index Accreditation Panel that certifies the rating.

Immediately over several discussions in August, PAM presented the proposal of Green Building Index Malaysia to leaders of the building and construction industry, and received full support and encouragement.

In the same month, the Association of Consulting Engineers Malaysia accepted PAM's invitation to join the Committee, and to jointly develop the rating tools.

With the individual Committee Members' knowledge and experience with green building ratings, the Committee went straight to work and formed two separate drafting teams headed by Ir TL Chen for non-residential development, and Ar Chan Seong Aun for residential properties respectively.

During the period between August and November, members of the Committee have visited Building and Construction Authority of Singapore that certifies Singapore's Green Mark, and Green Building Council Australia that

certifies Australia's Green Star. We thank Mr Tan Tian Chong, Director of Technology Development of BCA Singapore and Ms Trudy-Ann King, State Manager of GBCA for Victoria, South Australia and Tasmania, for sharing their experiences of Green Mark and Green Star respectively with us.

While in Melbourne, the Committee also held technical discussions with Professor Emeritus Allan Rodger of University of Melbourne, and Professor Roger Fay of University of Tasmania. Allan is an advisor on sustainable architecture and sustainable cities, and recently participated in the creation of "Melbourne Principles for Sustainable Cities", and Roger had co-developed the "National Australia Building Environmental Rating System" for the Department of Environment and Heritage Australia.

All four of them are here to participate in this Forum, and will also join a Consultative Meeting hosted by PAM later today with Malaysian experts including Prof. Dato' Ar Elias Salleh and Associate Professor Dr Faridah Shafii.

In early November, PAM also had the opportunity to share the concept of Green Building Index Malaysia at the Asia Congress of Architects in Busan Korea, with possible collaboration with country or organisation that may have similar intention.

By December, the two drafting teams have completed their rating schemes for both residential and non-residential respectively, and tested them on actual projects. PAM and ACEM had since also finalised the formation of a joint Green Building Index Accreditation Panel that will oversee the assessment for Green Building Index Malaysia.

After today's preview, and having considered the feedback from the industry and the public, we target to officially launch Green Building Index Malaysia in early April.

Green Wave

Over the last few months, as PAM and ACEM worked on Green Building Index Malaysia, we have often been asked whether Malaysia property market is ready for the green wave.

International experience has shown that green building rating tool plays a critical roles in greening the property market, and judging by the response that we have received for today's forum, we are ready.

Ar Boon Che Wee
Deputy President, PAM
& Convener, Green Design Forum