

OPENING ADDRESS BY AR. BOON CHE WEE
PAM PRESIDENT & GREEN BUILDING INDEX CHAIRMAN
IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE LAUNCH OF
GREEN BUILDING INDEX INDUSTRIAL NEW CONSTRUCTION RATING TOOL & INDUSTRIAL EXISTING
BUILDING RATING TOOL
7 JUNE 2011
HILTON KUALA LUMPUR

GREEN DIFFERENTIATION

Good afternoon YB Dato' Sri Peter Chin, and distinguished guests, welcome to the launch of yet another set of rating tool by Green Building Index.

Green Building Index as a relatively new and volunteer driven rating had progressed and developed at a such a consistent pace, that it is unmatched by even the more established ratings.

Most importantly, as every rating by Green Building Index is developed in response to request from the industry, the successive launches of Green Building Index ratings also reflect the healthy need, the acceptance and the confidence of the industry and public have on this national benchmark.

I am pleased to inform that to date, about two years and two weeks since the official launch of Green Building Index, we have received over 180 registrations for certification, and had issued 27 certifications, including two Final Certifications after the projects had been completed and verified.

These 27 projects consist of 10 residential new construction projects, 16 non-residential new construction projects and 1 non-residential existing buildings.

In fact, with the support of the government and the industry, Green Building Index had achieved another milestone last week.

And we would like to take this opportunity to congratulate our Guest of Honour and YB's Ministry for being the proud owner of the first completed, verified and fully certified Green Building Index Platinum building, when Suruhanjaya Tenaga's (ST) Diamond Building was officiated by YAB Deputy Prime Minister on 31 May last week.

Congratulation Dato' Sri, and we truly appreciate KETTHA and ST's support and promotion of the green technology, knowledge and skill development in Malaysia.

We are also very heartened by the announcement from the ST Chairman Tan Sri Datuk Dr Ahmad Tajuddin Ali that one of the key lessons learned by ST in the development of the Diamond Building was that: the increase in cost for this building to be designed and constructed as a green building, from the start, was only six per cent compared to having it as a business as usual conventional building.

For the press who has been looking forward to cost statistic on green buildings in Malaysia, I repeat – six percent to achieve Green Building Index Platinum certification.

Also on certification and cost, and on behalf of Green Building Index, I would like to record our special appreciation to Yang Berbahagia Datuk Susan Wong, the President of Sabah Housing and Real Estate Developers Association or SHERIDA.

Datuk Susan has recently on learning that she has been misinformed and misguided on the registration fees for Green Building Index certification, has taken upon herself to correct the information to the press officially and to her members.

It was brought to our attention by Datuk Susan of the speculation that the registration fee for 1,000 units of housing development would cost RM5million to the developer based on RM5,000 per unit, but the truth is, based on GBI's schedule of registration fees: the registration fee for 1,000 units of housing with a typical 150m² gross floor area (GFA) is only as low as RM65 per unit to the developer.

Yang Berhormat Dato' Sri, ladies and gentlemen.

Just as it had driven Malaysia's development as we progressed from an economy dependent on primary commodities to one that is manufacturing and export based, the industrial sector has also been fuelling our energy demand, consuming over 40% of our energy resources, and almost one-half of our national electricity output.

With the industrial sector's continued influence over the country's economy, even as we steadily transform to high technology and knowledge based economy, its burden on the country's energy usage, not to mention its environmental footprint, has remained a concern.

It is thus natural for Green Building Index (GBI), with the encouragement of the Federation of Malaysian Manufacturers (FMM), to now focus on this largest energy user group, with this launch of our new Industrial New Construction (INC) and Industrial Existing Building (IEB) tools.

These tools are based on the six established and well accepted GBI criteria of energy efficiency (EE), indoor environmental quality (IEQ), sustainable site planning and management (SM), material and resources (MR), water efficiency (WE) and innovation (IN), with emphasis on EE and IEQ, in order to improve the energy performance, given that these buildings often operate 24/7/365; and enhance the productivity with improved working conditions of these facilities as they house hundreds, even thousands, of people under one roof.

The GBI Industrial tools are also unique that they have included assessment of resources used by the industrial processes.

This dual launch which has included a rating for refurbishment of existing industrial buildings is intended to recognise the potential these facilities, and encourage these facilities to be retrofitted green and future ready, in line with the principle of sustainability.

Unlike all previous Green Building Index tools which are largely for developer driven properties, these new industrial tools are the first GBI tool for properties which are primarily owner occupied, and as such, the participation and input of FMM had been invaluable, for us to ensure that the ratings are flexible and suitable for most types of industrial buildings in Malaysia.

We believe that this is also our opportunity to leap frog and differentiate our manufacturing sector, and spur our global positioning and competitiveness.

On this note, I would like to convey our appreciation to FMM, and to you, members of the building and construction industry who have consistently provided critical feedback to us, and joining us in the review of our existing tools and in the formulation of our new tools.

The new rating tools currently in development and scheduled to be launched this year are: a rating for shopping mall, a rating for hotel, and a rating for health facility.

Looks like you have to change your own light bulb for some time.

Most importantly, we are extremely grateful to our Guest of Honour Yang Berhormat Minister of Energy, Green Technology and Water, for always taking time to guide us since the inception of Green Building Index, and today joining us to speak to us.

Thank you Dato' Sri and we look forward your keynote speech to us, and thank you to all for joining us this afternoon, I trust that we will all have an informative afternoon.