

Improving environmental practices in Malaysian construction sector

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THE construction sector can be an industry which is innovative, based on the willingness of its players to experiment and to adopt new approaches and technologies.

Unlike other industries, the construction industry has a more significant impact on the environment. As such, the industry has to take special precautions to ensure that its activities harmonise with the environment.

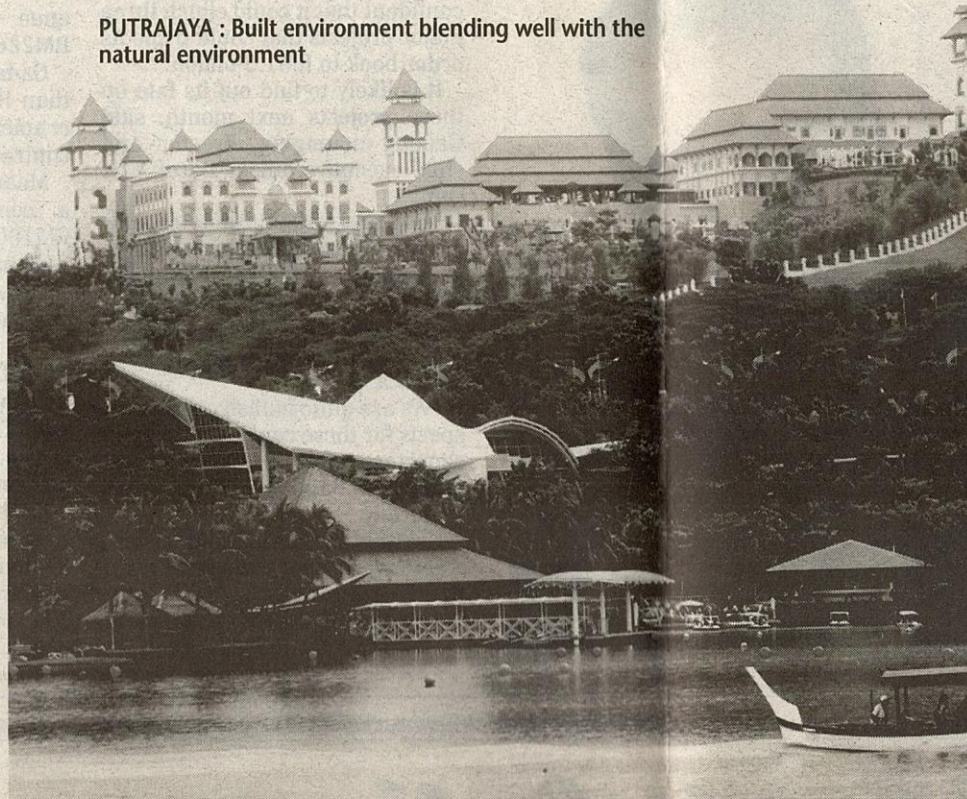
As the construction industry continues to develop the built environment within the natural environment, stakeholders are accountable to achieve the highest standards of quality, occupational safety and health and environmental practices.

The long-term development of the industry requires these social responsibilities be upheld to ensure that a proper balance is achieved between the nation's social and economic goals.

It is not surprising that the highest standard of quality, occupational safety and health and environment-friendly practices have been adopted by the industry as one of the strategic thrusts of the recently approved Construction Industry Master Plan.

Recognising the importance of long-term impact of good environmental practices in the construction in-

PUTRAJAYA : Built environment blending well with the natural environment



STRATEGIC RECOMMENDATION: Strategic Recommendations for Environmental Practices — Construction Industry initiatives for sustainable development (right)

ing up the necessary programmes to ensure the sustainability of the built environment.

Malaysia has still a long way to go in its journey to-

velopment on the hill sides and water front have adequately addressed the issues and there is also a strong recommendation on the "Tree Preservation Order" requir-

Strategic Recommendations For Improving Environmental Practices In Construction Industry



Creating a world-class, innovative and knowledgeable global solution provider

PROLOGUE

IN TRYING to address the numerous weaknesses in the construction industry delivery system which often result in excessive cost overrun and quality deficiency in the final output, the construction industry stakeholders have agreed that a long-term construction industry development plan is needed.

Construction Industry Development Board (CIDB), in conjunction with the Works Ministry, the relevant government departments and agencies, industry-players and organisations representing industry stakeholders, have sat together and collectively addressed the issues and successfully developed the first Construction Industry Master Plan (CIMP).

To keep the public informed of CIMP which will be launched on December 10, CIDB will publish articles regularly outlining and explaining the rationale of the seven Strategic Thrusts of the CIMP and the Enabling Recommendations. It is hoped that through this exercise we shall together be able to mould our construction industry into a world-class, innovative and knowledgeable solution provider.

To obtain further information and to provide feedback, please email to cimpinfo@cidb.gov.my and cimpfeedback@cidb.gov.my

dustry Development Board (CIDB) has released one of the most important documents ever on environmental sustainability in the country.

The document titled "Strategic Recommendation for Improving Environmental Practices in Construction Industry" addresses some of the more pressing issues on the degradation of the environment and advances a number of steps to promote best practices in environmental management, as it relates to the construction industry.

The strategic document is the culmination of a six-year effort of the CIDB Technical Committee on Good Environmental Practices in the Construction Industry (identified officially as Technical Committee No. 9) chaired by Assoc Professor Dr Joy Jacqueline Pereira.

The recommendations from the more than 30-member team mark another milestone in strategic partnership between the public and the private sectors in draw-

ing states to adopt the tree preservation order and to cease the cutting and felling of certain types of trees.

Unfortunately, until today only Selangor has complied with the requirement.

Other recommendations include developing guidelines for stage construction which require development to be done in phases to reduce environment impact during earthwork stage, effective erosion and sedimentation control during construction and the introduction of policy statement for construction wastes.

As part of self-regulation promotion, contractors are encouraged to get MS ISO 14001 certification and offering incentives for achieving them. Also recommended are, all professionals involved in environmental practices and management must be held responsible and accountable for their respective recommendations and for the development of a code of practice for environmental protection.

Meanwhile, the emerging

green consumerism will herald the coming of a green revolution, requiring such initiatives as eco-labelling, sustainability first, etc, for construction products and methods meeting the environment sustainability requirement.

When increasing capacity and public awareness, the document recommends among other things, the creation of a more flexible organisational structure in the local authorities allowing secondment of more senior technical personnel to the local authorities.

The contractors and developers should also be educated through an awareness programme on the impact of their work activities on the environment and how they can achieve good environment practice without sac-

rificing their profits.

Another recommendation is the introduction of National Recognition Programme which recognises and awards developers who are selling environmentally-friendly products.



The recommendations to address the knowledge gaps include continuous development of a checklist on guidelines and regulations applicable to the construction industry.

As part of the whole life cost of a project, the cost of implementing good environment practice is also recommended to be incorporated into the total development cost of a project.

Other recommendations include intensifying research on environmental preferable products, creating a market for construction and demolition materials, creating a need for auditable practice and identifying hazardous materials and replacing them with alternative

material.

As with quality and occupational health and safety, the commitment from all stakeholders are required to transform the Malaysian construction industry into one that meets the human need for development in harmony with nature.

While we continuously strive to become a fully developed nation, development will continue to expand to meet our socio-economic obligations, but the focus should be on the quality of the development that is pursued.

Much of the what is going to happen to the environment in the future is being shaped by what we are doing to it today.

Note: The booklet "Strategic Recommendations for Improving Environmental Practices in Construction Industry" is available from CIDB Cooperative, 7th Floor Grand Seasons Avenue at a promotional rate of only RM10 per copy. Corporate buyers may contact Corporate Communication directly at 03-26170200.