

BULLETIN

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2021

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MBAM EVENTS . MBAM TRAININGS . OTHER KEY EVENTS ATTENDED BY MBAM



MBAM APP

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Dato' Sri Eric Kuan
MBAM Secretary General

The month of April was a rather busy month for us at MBAM as we organised quite a few major events including the 66th MBAM Anniversary Dinner, MBAM Affiliate Dialogue 2021 and MBAM Annual Safety & Health Conference 2021. Thank you to all sponsors and participants for your endless support towards the Association.

I hope MBAM members are still staying safe and adhere to the directives made by the Government. I would also like to take this opportunity to urge all members to register for the National COVID-19 Immunisation Programme in line with the Government's aim to create a herd immunity to fight and curb the spread of COVID-19. Let's do our part to protect ourselves and everyone around us.

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Special

66th MBAM Anniversary Dinner

MBAM celebrated its 66th Anniversary in a dinner celebration held at The Majestic Hotel on 9 April. The dinner was graced by CIDB Chief Executive Datuk Ir. Ahmad 'Asri Abdul Hamid representing the Senior Minister of Works.



In a special video message, Senior Minister YB Dato' Sri Haji Fadillah bin Haji Yusof urged all contractors to adhere to the Safety SOPs which are already in place in reducing unwanted accidents. "It is my fervent hope that MBAM will seize this opportunity in championing work site safety in the construction industry not only for the construction workers but also the public at large. This is evident as we witnessed several major accidents involving the lives of workers and passer-by at construction sites recently" said Fadillah.

The theme chosen for MBAM 66th Anniversary is "Building the Next Decade". Organising Chairman and MBAM Treasurer-General Yeoh Keong Yuan in his welcome remarks mentioned that for construction industry, there are opportunities for contractors to make worksites better and to construct safer. Whilst the industry is going through some challenges now, MBAM believe that the next decade is certainly one of hope and excitement too. MBAM is also glad to note that the Ministry of Works Malaysia has embarked on some initiatives to digitise the country's infrastructure in line with the era of the Industrial Revolution 4.0.



MBAM President Tan Sri Sufri Hj Mhd Zin in his speech said that MBAM has been receiving continuous feedback from members on the issues that they are currently facing in order to survive and ensure business continuity in the current pandemic situation. "MBAM is championing the industry by bringing the voices of the construction industry to the relevant Government authorities. Some of the issues and proposals raised by MBAM in the recent months are related to the need for extension and improvement on the Temporary Measures for Reducing the Impact of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Bill 2020 (Act 829), extension of grace period on the enforcement of latest amendments to the Employees' Minimum Standards of Housing, Accommodations and Amenities Act 1990 (Act 446) and the objection on the expansion of Human Resources Development Fund (PSMB) Act 2001 (Act 612) to construction industry" said Sufri.



A pre-recorded video for MBAM Long Service Award presentation held on 26 March 2021 was played at the dinner event to commemorate MBAM Long Service 2020 recipients. MBAM President Tan Sri Sufri accompanied by Yeoh and myself presented 27 medals to deserving individuals and companies in recognition of their dedication and sacrifices contributed to the Association and the construction industry.

Congratulations to the following MBAM Long Service Award recipients:

Bronze (5 Years Long Service)

- 1) Ms Agnes Choon
- 2) Mr Koay Chee Seng
- 3) Mr Muhammad Fadzley bin Salim
- 4) Mr Looi Hong Weei
- 5) Mr Tony Foo Yoon Seong

Silver (10 Years Long Service)

- | | |
|------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1) Mr Chong Tshun Ming | 9) Mr Mazlan Haron |
| 2) Mr Chua Siow Leng | 10) Mr Ooi Tat Lean |
| 3) Mr Gan Wah Lien | 11) Mr Tony Kok Tong Yong |
| 4) Ms Joanne Ng | 12) Dato' Ubull Din Om |
| 5) Mr Khoo Cheong | 13) Mr Vargis Joseph |
| 6) Mr Kwan Hock Hai | 14) Mr Lim Fan Chong |
| 7) Ms Loh Mei Ling | 15) Mr Yap Kam Loon |
| 8) Mr Leong Yuen Loong | |

Gold (15 Years Long Service)

- | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1) Ms Chai Min Fung | 3) Mr Michael Yap Kok Wai |
| 2) Mr Lenny Lim Len Wei | |

Platinum (20 Years Long Service)

- 1) WCT Berhad
- 2) Pasukhas Construction Sdn Bhd

Jade (30 Years Long Service)

- 1) Bina Puri Sdn Bhd

Diamond (35 Years Long Service)

- 1) Mr Lai Moo Chan

*The record was based on service up to year 2020.

At the dinner, we awarded the MBAM Special Bronze and Gold award to outstanding performers and deserving individuals who has served with the Association. The recipient for the Bronze Award was John Tong, MBAM Honorary Advisor (Legal) and the Gold Award was awarded to Datuk Lai Foot Kong, MBAM Honorary Life President. The Association also conferred upon MBAM Honorary Advisor, Dato' Ir. Tan Kia Loke the title of MBAM Honorary Builder.



MBAM Special Bronze Award to John Tong



MBAM Special Gold Award to Datuk Lai Foot Kong



Conferral of MBAM Honorary Builder to Dato' Ir. Tan Kia Loke

The second edition of the Construction Industry Trade Awards (CITA) presentation by MBAM was also held during the dinner. The CITA was first introduced in 2019. One of its main objectives was to give due recognition to organisation who has contributed and demonstrated excellence in enhancing image, performance and improvement of the construction industry in their respective field of expertise. The 2021 MBAM CITA winners were as follows:



Winner for Mechanical & Electrical Contractor Sunway Engineering Sdn Bhd



Winner for Piling Contractor Econpile (M) Sdn Bhd



Winner for Water & Waste Water Contractor Qudotech Sdn Bhd



Special Mention for Mechanical & Electrical Contractor for Innovation in Vertical Transportation System Eita Resources Sdn Bhd

MBAM also presented a special video to commemorate Immediate Past President Foo Chek Lee for serving as the President for two consecutive terms from 2016 to 2020.

The President and MBAM Council Members wish to record our heartfelt thanks to all sponsors and guests for making the 66th anniversary celebration a memorable night.

Note: 66th MBAM Anniversary was a celebration for year 2020 but the dinner was postponed due to the pandemic situation.

MBAM Event(s)

Malaysia – Cambodia Construction Business Partner Seeking



Group photo, from left: Raymond, Yong, Sharifah, Foo & Chung

Successfully held virtually on 26 March, the session was jointly organised by MBAM and Cambodia Constructors Association (CCA) through the ASEAN Constructors Federation (ACF) platform. The session was organised to promote the capabilities of Malaysian companies, products and services and to introduce investment opportunities in Cambodia. It is also to capitalise the resources for ASEAN construction and help each other to push forward, protect and promote “Buy ASEAN First”. This will foster and strengthen bilateral relationship as well as business partnership and cooperation between ACF members.

MBAM was represented by Immediate Past President cum Chairman of ACF Foo Chek Lee, Chairman of International Affairs & Business Development Committee and Vice President Chung Soo Kiong, Vice President Kenneth Liew, Council Members Ir. Chee Weng Loon and Lau Yew Mun, and Secretariat staff. The CCA was represented by its Acting Chairman Charles Vann and Council members.

Foo and Charles presented their welcome remarks followed by the presentation of four papers on the following topics:

1. Cambodia Construction Industry by CCA Foreign Affair Manager, Seoung Sinat
2. Cambodia Investment by CCA General Manager, Chiv Siv Pheng
3. IBS & Prefabrication Construction Method Engineering & BIM Specialist Service by Edward Han from PLYTEC Group of Companies
4. DOE Group Products – Taps & Sanitary Ware by Sharifah Suzana and Yong Kean Seng from Potex / DOE Industries Sdn Bhd

Meeting to discuss on KPKT's Circular on Application Procedures for Preparing Temporary Workers Accommodation

Held on 5 April in MBAM Secretariat Office and attended by Human Resources Development Committee Members and a number of Council Members, the meeting discussed on the details of a circular by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government (KPKT) and its impacts to the construction industry. Among the issues discussed were on:

- 1) Validity of the application procedure is 3 years (until 2023) – MBAM would like to request the Government to continue allowing on-site workers' accommodation after 2023 as long as it complies with the requirement of Act 446
- 2) Renewal of the temporary permit for workers' accommodation should be based on the duration of the construction project instead of yearly renewal and payment for holding fee should be one-off or one-time only upon approval.
- 3) The Principal Submitting Person/Submitting Person should not be limited to Architect, but should be opened to all such as Planner, Professional Engineer, etc.
- 4) To exclude certain documents required for applying *Kebenaran Merancang* (KM), Item 4, 5 & 10 of the Attachment 2(c) of the Circular.
 - Item 4 – *Hak Milik Tanah/Surat Persetujuan Bank/Perjanjian Jual Beli/Sijil Cagaran Rasmi Hak Milik Tanah*
 - Item 5 – *Laporan Cadangan Pemajuan (LCP)*
 - Item 10 – *Dokumen Kiraan Caj Pemajuan*

MBAM will be submitting the above inputs to the PEMUDAH for their consideration. If members wish to have a copy of the Circular, kindly email to mbam06@mbam.org.my (attention to MBAM Senior Manager, Ms Chai Min Fung).

MBAM Affiliate Dialogue 2021

MBAM and its Affiliated Associations held a dialogue session on 9 April to resolve some of the issues faced by the construction industry. The dialogue session also served as a platform for networking and idea-sharing among over 40 representatives.



The Temporary Measures for Reducing the Impact of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Act 2020 (Act 829) is now extended to 30 June 2021. In early February 2021, MBAM sent in some proposals to improve the Act 829 for the benefit of MBAM members and the construction industry but is still waiting for update from the relevant Government department.

The Amendments to Employees' Minimum Standards of Housing, Accommodations and Amenities Act 1990 (Act 446) under the Emergency Ordinance is now in force and contractors are advised to apply for temporary building permit or Certificate for Accommodation (CFA) via online platform at <http://akta446.mohr.gov.my/>. The enforcement of Act 446 came into effect to ensure contractors are providing a conducive living space for workers especially during this pandemic period.

Human Resources Development Fund (PSMB) Act 2001 (Act 612), was recently announced to include a number of previously excluded industries including the construction industry with effect from 1 March 2021. Concerns were raised during the dialogue on the essentially double levy payment that construction industry needs to pay to both CIDB Malaysia and HRDF for the purpose of trainings. MBAM is still in discussion with the respective Government departments on this matter and will be updating members soon. For now, MBAM advises members to ensure that companies have registered with PSMB/HRDF before 30 June 2021.

MBAM Affiliate Dialogue is an annual gathering for key construction industry players especially our affiliate members to highlight issues faced by the industry. Representatives from the Government sector was also present including from the Department of Occupational Safety & Health (DOSH) Malaysia, Department of Labour (JTK) Peninsular Malaysia, Construction Industry Development Board (CIDB) Malaysia



Meeting with CIDB on Accreditation of MBAM Lifting Supervisor Training

Held on 12 April at CIDB, World Trade Centre, the meeting was attended by Council Member and Chairman of MBAM Safety & Health Committee Michael Yap, Lead Trainer Abdullah Embong and Manager Mohd Farhan. CIDB was represented by its General Manager of Supervisory & Management Competency Division Heryanti Hilmi, General Manager of Competency Skills Development Division Annis Othman and Manager Nur Faeza Hamdan Fadel. The objective of the meeting was to discuss on the accreditation by CIDB for MBAM Lifting Supervisor Training Programme for the programme to be placed under the CIDB Act 520 requirement as skills training.



Group photo, from left: Farhan, Abdullah, Yap, Annis, Heryanti

Meeting on Safe Climbing Platform (SCP) Guideline

A meeting was held on 15 April at MBAM Training Centre to discuss and finalise the draft guideline on Safe Climbing Platform. The meeting reviewed comments to be incorporated into the guideline and agreed to use "Guidelines for Safe Use of Self-Climbing Perimeter Protective Screen (SCPPS)". The revised version of the modules will be circulated to all working group members for final comments. The meeting was attended by Council Member and Chairman of MBAM Safety & Health Committee Michael Yap, representatives from Technological Association Malaysia (TAM) Louis Tay and Chu Wei Yew, Department of Occupational Safety and Health (DOSH) Wan Mohd Fadzil Bin Wan Sapiansori, MBAM Executive Director Loh Mei Ling and Secretariat staff.



Discussion on SCP guideline

Meeting on CCM Training

The meeting on Certified Construction Manager (CCM) Training Programme was held on 21 April. Professor Fadzil Hassan of Universiti Teknologi Mara (UiTM), who is the developer of the CCM Training presented his proposal for a joint collaboration with MBAM to conduct the training and to be supported by CIDB. As it will be mandatory for all construction project valued above RM50 millions to be managed by CCM by 2023, it is expected that this training programme will be in great demand soon.

There are three ways to get accreditation (i) by training and assessment, (ii) by assessment only and (iii) by interview process. A total of 17 modules are needed to be completed for method (i) in a short period.

Based on the feedback from MBAM Assessors for CCM interview, many of the interviewees were not aware of the requirement, expectation of the interview, and have appeared unprepared and have lack of confidence during the interview, even though they have years of working experience in the field. Thus, high percentage of failure was recorded in most of the interview sessions arranged by CIDB.

It was agreed that MBAM will kick-start a pre-interview preparation training for MBAM members' companies before attending the CCM interview session. Prof Fadzil will be coming out with a proposal for the Committee's consideration. The Committee is targeting to kick-start the training in June 2021.

The meeting was attended by Immediate Past President and Chairman of Human Resources Development (HRD) Committee Foo Chek Lee, Deputy Sec-Gen 2 and Education & Special Institution Committee Chairman Datuk Astaman Abdul Aziz, Deputy HRD Committee Chairman III Andrew Ong, HRD Committee Members, Ir. Chuan Yeong Ming and Dennis Tan, Executive Director Loh Mei Ling, Secretariat staff Chai Min Fung and Jocelyn Ng.



Meeting with CIOB Malaysia

The Chartered Institute of Building (CIOB) Malaysia met with MBAM on 22 April in MBAM Secretariat Office. Deputy Sec-Gen 2 and Education & Special Institution Committee Chairman Datuk Astaman Abdul Aziz welcomed the representatives from CIOB Malaysia led by its President Ts. Ho Chee Leong.

CIOB UK Vice President Datuk Seri Michael briefed MBAM on the background of CIOB United Kingdom and some of their activities. He also assured MBAM that the memorandum of understanding signed earlier between MBAM and CIOB has indeed created a great platform for both parties to share and exchange information, to be informed of upcoming training programmes, events, seminars, webinars, study visit and etc. That being said, more potential collaborations can be discussed and it was agreed that MBAM will come up with a wish list to be shared with CIOB UK and its Malaysia-chapter.

Besides Datuk Astaman, also attending the meeting from MBAM were President Tan Sri Sufri Hj Mhd Zin, Committee Members, Steven Shee, Hasnah Mohd Ali, Executive Director Loh Mei Ling as well as Secretariat staff Chai Min Fung and Jocelyn Ng. Other representatives from CIOB Malaysia present were Council Members, Wong Khin Yip, Cheang Cheow Syen and Wong Wee Jiat.

MBAM Training(s)

Webinar on Build Better with UAC IBS Wall Component



MBAM in collaboration with UAC Berhad organised a webinar on 26 March. MBAM Council Member and Technical & IBS Deputy Chairman Nalla Sundran thanked UAC for sharing knowledge with MBAM members on how to build better with IBS wall component. The first MBAM-UAC webinar session shared on how UAC's IBS can overcome current construction industry common challenges that we face today such as shortage of skilled workers, lack of quality control, design constraints and external risk factors that delays the completion timeline of projects.

The session was conducted by Assistant Manager of UAC SolidPanel Division, Eric Tan who shared about today's challenges in the construction industry when using conventional method such as the cause of uneven surface, hacking, uneven corner, site debris and shortage of skilled construction workers. External issue like COVID-19 pandemic also affected the way of working and project timeline in the industry. Eric also shared some project references which include modular building, landed houses, affordable houses, commercial building, industrial buildings, hospital and many others.

Over 90 participants benefited from this webinar session and there will be two more sessions planned for this year. If members are interested to know more on the UAC IBS Wall System, please do contact MBAM Assistant Manager, Muhammad Fadzley at mbam18@mbam.org.my

MBAM Site Safety Supervisor (SSS) Course Kuala Lumpur 79th Intake

The above event was held from 29 March to 5 April at MBAM Training Centre with a total of 29 participants. The eight-day competency course was accredited by the Department of Occupational Safety & Health (DOSH) which qualified participants to apply for DOSH yellow book upon completion and passing all the required Assessments set by the Board of Examination of MBAM SSS Course. All SSS participants were required to sit for Paper 1 (Written Assessment) at the end of each Module during the classroom training and Paper 2 (Practical Assessment) which was conducted at the actual construction job site.

Under regulation 25 (1), of the Factories and Machinery (Building Operations and Works of Engineering Construction) (Safety) Regulations 1986 (BOWEC), main contractors shall appoint a competent SSS for safety supervision on construction activities within the job site. For company/employer of the SSS participant who has completed the course, he/she is eligible to be granted 20 CIDB CCD points.

Seminar on Enforcement of the Latest Amended Act 446 under Emergency Ordinance & Site COVID-19 Management

The seminar organised by MBAM Human Resources Development (HRD) Committee took place on 31 March 2021 at hotel in Kuala Lumpur with a total of 143 participants. MBAM Immediate Past President and Chairman of HRD Committee Foo Chek Lee welcomed the participants in his opening remarks. He briefly provided an overview of the effect of the COVID-19 pandemic and Movement Control Order (MCO) on the construction industry since it first hit Malaysia in early 2020. He also shared on the background of the Act 446 on when it was first gazetted and the continuous amendments to improve the Act.

The Act 446 is aimed to improve the living condition, basic facilities for workers as well as the elements of safety and hygiene at workers' accommodation. However, with the latest amended Workers' Minimum Standards of Housing, Accommodations and Amenities Act 1990 (Act 446) which was first gazetted on 18 September 2019 and came into full enforcement on 1 September 2020, has caused some issues for the construction industry as we are still trying to curb the spread of COVID-19 at construction sites. Foo hopes that through the Seminar, some of the questions that have arise can be answered by the panel of expert speakers present.



There was a total of four topic presentations by five speakers. The first session was by the Head of Sector, Occupational Health and Environment Sector, Disease Control Division, Ministry of Health, Dr. Priya A/P Ragunath on "How to manage and control COVID-19 outbreak effectively at construction sites?" Dr Priya pointed out that the third wave COVID-19 outbreak in Malaysia was mainly contributed by workplace clusters at 85%, with the construction industry ranking third at 16%. Therefore, it is crucial for the public, especially in making the less educated group (i.e. labour workers in the construction industry especially foreign workers who are unable to fully understand the national language) to understand the need to adhere to the SOPs set by the Government.



The second presentation was on "SOP compliance and issues at construction sites" by CIDB Wilayah Persekutuan Director, Zainora Zainal and Head of Enforcement, Mohd Nor. Zainora started the presentation by sharing some of the initial challenges faced by CIDB in coming with the SOPs and guidelines for construction industry as the pandemic and outbreak was a new challenge to grasp. According to Zainora, on 19 March 2021, CIDB has been delegated power to start enforcing on Act 446 too but discussion are still in progress with the Department of Labour (JTK) Peninsular Malaysia on the area of inspection by different agencies. Later, Mohd Nor shared that based on inspection during site visits, most of the construction worksite clusters were due to outbreak in living quarters. Therefore, the enforcement of Act 446 came into effect at an opportune time. He also mentioned on the importance of having a checklist in managing the compliance with SOPs on site, especially in managing foreign workers who are staying outside of Centralised Labour Quarters (CLQ) from meeting with external parties not from within same site.

After lunch, the third presentation was on "The Procedure, Checklist and Guideline for Application of Temporary Building Permit for Workers' Accommodations at Construction Sites" by Director, Building Control Department, Dewan Bandaraya Kuala Lumpur (DBKL), Sr Norizan Bt Sulaiman. She mentioned that Act 446 came into force at the right time to curb the spread of COVID-19 and DBKL is glad to work with CIDB and JTK to enforce the Act, in making sure the guideline, procedure and checklist are all in order for issuance of temporary building permit for workers' accommodation at construction sites within WP Kuala Lumpur. However, Sr Norizan also mentioned that compliance to Act 446 must align with Street, Drainage and Buildings Act 1974 (Act 133) and adherence to fire hazard safety by Fire and Rescue Department (Bomba), as well as requirements on utilities by all the different authorising agencies i.e. SYABAS, TNB, SWCorp.



The final and fourth presentation by JTK's Industrial Liaison Officer, Pn Suraiya Ch'ng Bt Abdullah was on the topic of "Act 446 (Amended) Under Emergency Ordinance (EO) – Enforcement and Compliance Requirement in Construction Industry". According to Suraiya, currently there are only two Acts under the EO which are Act 342 (Prevention and Control of Infectious Diseases Act 1988) and Act 446. Suraiya started by providing an overview and insight into the brief difference on laws relating to workers accommodation – Act 446, Act 446 under EO and Act 342.

And now under the amended Act 446 under the EO, the Act also applies to East Malaysia. Once the EO is lifted, Sabah and Sarawak no longer need to comply with Act 446. The confusions between different states under different local councils (PBT) are due to different ruling or procedure by the state. But Suraiya advised for all contractors to try their very best to adhere to the different set of requirements according to each PBT as a way to move forward. Suraiya also added that any approval application with JTK are to be done online (no physical form) and applicants must know the measurement requirements and calculate space accordingly. In her closing, she urged companies to just register first at <http://akta446.mohr.gov.my/>. While waiting for approval, applicants must show effort in complying with the Act 446 by providing a conducive living space for workers.

Throughout all the sessions during the day, many questions were raised by participants, and the speakers did their best in answering the questions to the best of their knowledge. MBAM members who wish to find out more information or understand each of the topic better can contact MBAM Secretariat for assistance.

MBAM Annual Safety & Health Conference 2021 and the 9th MBAM Safety and Health Awards Presentation Ceremony

With the theme "Discovering OSH Values through Technology IR 4.0", the MBAM Annual Safety & Health Conference 2021 was organised successfully and attracted close to 400 participants. The 19th edition of the 2-day Conference with 10 paper presentations was officiated by the Director General of Department of Occupational Safety & Health (DOSH) Malaysia Ir. Zailee bin Dollah on 6 April at Sunway Resort Hotel.

The objectives of the Conference were to promote the importance of having good practices in Safety & Health by inculcating best practices of OSH Management System and policies to protect workers from occupational hazards and risks; to reduce incidents or accidents at work place; and to enhance productivity and efficiency at workplace as well as to enhance company's reputation.

In the welcome speech by MBAM President, Tan Sri Sufri Hj Mhd Zin, he mentioned that the theme reflects on the transformation or disclosure of occupational safety and health values through IR Technology 4.0. "There are various benefits and advantages that we can get if we successfully adapt IR 4.0 technology and this adaption will help in ensuring that aspects of work at construction sites become safer and more orderly as well as increase efficiency and prevent accidents and deaths on construction sites" said Sufri.

DOSH Director General Ir. Zailee bin Dollah in his opening speech mentioned that the initiative to reduce accidents at construction sites is in line with the principle of self-regulation which is the core of the Occupational Safety and Health Act 1994 (OSHA 1994). The principles and philosophy of OSHA 1994 states "The responsibility to ensure safety and health in the workplace rests with those who create the risk and those who work with the risk". To reinforce this principle, construction site operations in 2020 and 2021 focus on the roles of clients, designers and contractors as well as other agencies that can influence OSH at construction sites.



DOSH DG Ir. Zailee hitting the gong as the opening gimmick, accompanied by President Tan Sri Sufri (middle) and MBAM Safety & Health Committee Chairman Michael Yap



“Since the OSHCIM Guidelines were introduced in 2017, the number of fatal accidents at construction sites in 2019 has been reduced by 22%” added Ir. Zailee. After four years of introduction, DOSH intends to upgrade the OSHCIM guidelines to an industry code of practice (ICOP) that should be adopted by all industry players. Ir. Zailee believes if all parties play their part, the level of OSH in our country will be further enhanced.

During the Opening Ceremony, Ir. Zailee also presented the MBAM Safety and Health Award 2021. The award was officially launched in 2011 and is jointly organised by MBAM and the Lighthouse Club Kuala Lumpur. MBAM conferred the MBAM Golden Helmet Award 2021 to Tan Sri Lee Lam Thye for his meritorious and untiring contributions to the construction industry. Tan Sri Lee is recognised for his leadership in promoting safety and health issues over the years.



The Conferment of MBAM Golden Helmet Award 2021 to Tan Sri Lee Lam Thye (second from right)



Group photo of the 9th MBAM Safety & Health Awards Presentation Ceremony, from left: Umar, Sufri, Lighthouse Club Kuala Lumpur Past President John Arkinstall, Zailee, Lee, Yap

During the same award presentation, the 9th MBAM Safety and Health Award for Site Personnel was presented to Mohd Umar Mukhtar who have shown high commitment to the implementation of Safety and Health for the project of Sunway Velocity Two.

The 19th edition of MBAM Safety & Health Conference 2021 was supported by Social Security Organisation Malaysia (SOCSO) and Construction Industry Development Board Malaysia (CIDB), and endorsed by National Council for Occupational Safety and Health (NCOSH) and Department of Occupational Safety and Health Malaysia (DOSH).

MBAM also wishes to extend our heartiest appreciation to the following sponsors for their generosity in sponsoring this year's awards.

- Education Champion: BK Asia Pacific
- Honourable Donor: PMCC Corporation
- Corporate Sponsors: Plus Three Consultants, Tony Gee and Partners, Techsol, Driver Trett



MBAM Lifting Supervisor Training 26th Intake

Successfully held on 20 and 21 April with a total of 24 participants, the training was conducted at Gamuda Plant Operator School Shah Alam. The MBAM Lifting Supervisor Training is an industrial based training and is jointly organised with MBAM Affiliate member, Malaysia Mobile Crane Owner's Association (1987). It is also supported by DOSH Malaysia as one of the industrial based competency training.

The Lifting Supervisor Course aims to provide participants with crucial knowledge and skills to enable the participants to undertake Lifting Supervisor duties according to the lifting plan and Job Safety Analysis required for lifting operation. Day-1 classroom training focused on technical knowledge on lifting activities which includes regulatory legislation, understanding the roles and responsibilities of a lifting supervisor, hand signals, understanding lifting activities and cranes, reading of load charts and lifting plan. Practical training and assessment on Day-2 were conducted on-ground with practical lifting activities. Trainees' technical knowledge were applied in actual lifting actions and they learned how to communicate with other lifting team members such as slingers, riggers, signalman and crane operator to carry out operations effectively and safely. Participants were required to individually develop their own lifting plan and Job Safety Analysis according to the different scenarios given as part of the assessment.

MBAM members are encouraged to conduct in-house training whereby MBAM Lifting Supervisor training team is able to customise the training to accommodate to company's need in filling up the skill gap of their employees.

Event(s) Attended by MBAM

China-ASEAN Building Materials Industry Cooperation Online Conference



The Online Conference was held on 26 March with the objective to strengthen the industrial cooperation and further enhance the new development of cooperation between China and ASEAN countries in the building materials industry and their enterprises.

The Conference provided an opportunity for all countries' representatives to understand the plans and policies of the building materials and construction industry in respective countries, to establish and broaden business channels as well as to find entry points and focus of cooperation with each other.

The Executive President of China-ASEAN Business Council (CABC), Xu Ningning welcomed all participants from ASEAN countries including Singapore, Brunei, Philippines, Vietnam and etc. Countries' representatives also took turn to present on the current economic and construction industry development as well as financial and technology cooperation opportunities in their respective countries. Overall, the Conference has helped China and ASEAN building materials industry and enterprises to cooperate, enhance the of economic and trade cooperation in the current global pandemic environment, and also promote the sustainable development of economic and trade cooperation between China and ASEAN countries.

In summary, the session gave a bird's eye view on the current industry situation and provide business opportunities for members of building materials and construction industry from China and ASEAN countries.

MBAM was represented by Immediate Past President Foo Chek Lee, Deputy President Oliver Wee, Vice Presidents Chung Soo Kiong and Kenneth Liew, Council Member Ir. Chee Weng Loon, Executive Director Loh Mei Ling, General Manager Lenny Lim, Senior Manager Chai Min Fung and myself.

MPC Session to Finalise Action Plan on “Improving Efficiency of Regulatory Delivery in Dealing with Construction Permit (DCP) Through Public and Private Sectors Collaboration”

The above meeting on 1 April at a hotel in Petaling Jaya was attended by MBAM Immediate Past President Foo Chek Lee, Human Resources Development Committee Member Mazlan Haron, General Manager Lenny Lim and I.

On the matter of Centralised Labour Quarters and Temporary Labour Quarters (TLQ), Mazlan said a major problem is on the problem of getting a Development Order (DO) as different local authorities have different implementations. There is also the misunderstanding of requirements where some DO requires town planner's endorsement even for TLQ. PLANMalaysia says approval can be gotten in 10 days, which may not be the case.

Malaysia Productivity Corporation (MPC) invited MBAM to have a discussion soonest possible on the Circular from the Secretary-General of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government (KPKT) No.1/2021-Application Procedure for Providing Short-Term Employment.



Foo (second from right) and I at the MPC Session

MPC “Tea Session” on Government Procurement Issues and MyMudah with Technical Working Group on Government Procurement

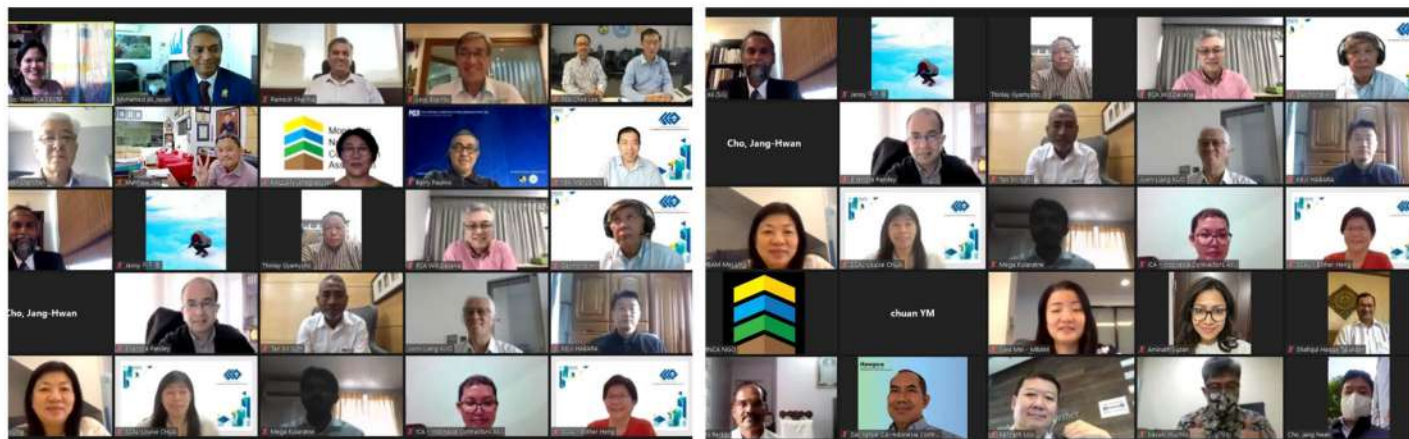
The attendees were briefed on the services of Malaysia Productivity Corporation (MPC) with regards to MyMudah. MyMudah is a service by MPC where Associations, company or business owner, can forward and highlight regulatory issues through the Unified Public Consultation (UPC) Portal. The highlighted issues will then be analysed by the Business Facilitation Action Team (PEMUDAH) and escalated to the Economic Action Council (EAC) meetings to be assessed before a decision is made. These decisions may include temporarily or permanently abolishing, modifying, waiving or exempting regulations that are unnecessarily burdensome to businesses, as well as simplifying procedures and shortening processing time to facilitate ease of doing business. To ensure measurable outcome, PEMUDAH will monitor the performance of every ministry and state Government by making periodic reports to the EAC.

Some of the issues raised on Government procurement during the meeting included:-

- a) Definition of completion date when dealing with IRB;
- b) The encouragement/requirement by Government to implement BIM but who will bear the cost;
- c) Digitalisation is encouraged but no increase in compensation; and,
- d) Issue related to price variation in contracts.

Overall, it is hoped that the services can be used by construction industry players to resolve outstanding issues faced by stakeholders. The above session on 2 April was chaired by MBAM Immediate Past President Foo Chek Lee. MBAM General Manager Lenny Lim was also in attendance.

3rd Virtual IFAWPCA Executive Board Meeting



Snapshot of the IFAWPCA meeting participants

The meeting held on 19 April deliberated on two main items, namely update on the IFAWPCA Registration and 45th IFAWPCA Convention.

The recent IFAWPCA Registration Committee held on 7 April resolved and recommended to the Executive Board to register the IFAWPCA Organisation with the Philippines Securities and Exchange Commission as a domestic non-stock corporation with 40.1%-100% foreign membership in line with the recent development on trade liberalisation in the Philippines enabling the registration of IFAWPCA Organisation, provided majority incorporators are residents in the Philippines.

Legal Advisor John Tong further proposed for a Special General Meeting to be held to expand the Objectives and Purposes and expressly provided for the registration of the IFAWPCA Organisation with the Philippines Securities and Exchange Commission. For this purpose, it was proposed that the Contracts Officer will assist to review and amend such provisions of the Constitution and By-laws of the IFAWPCA Organisation.

As for the 45th IFAWPCA Convention, a survey was conducted to gauge the participation of members' Association at the Convention in September 2021. Majority of the members including MBAM are unable to commit their participation or unable to join the convention due to travel restrictions and vaccination programme in their countries.

The Board deliberated the matter and agreed to extend the 45th IFAWPCA Convention for another year under the Presidency of Maldives National Association of Construction Industry (MNACI). The date for the Convention is scheduled for in October 2022.



Interview Session with MBAM: MyREF & ILO Situational Analysis

In a virtual interview on 12 April, Malaysian Research & Education Foundation (MyREF) informed MBAM that they will be conducting an Industrial Sectoral Situational Analysis with the International Labour Organization (ILO) to review the existing industry engagement mechanism which are being practiced by the Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET)/Skills training provider. This study aims to identify and analyse the roles, achievements, challenges and strategies for industry engagement in TVET/skills training in Malaysia.

Deputy Sec-Gen 2 and Education & Special Institution Committee Chairman Datuk Astaman Abdul Aziz briefed MyREF that MBAM is currently working with Politeknik Ungku Omar (PUO) and Universiti Tun Hussein Onn Malaysia (UTHM) on Work Based Learning (WBL) Programme. For PUO, a total of six cohorts with a total 97 graduates were attached to MBAM members' companies for a duration of six months apprenticeship.

MBAM noted that trainees who completed their skills training from TVET/Skills Institutions are still required to get certification from CIDB. It was suggested that there is a need to re-look at the TVET syllabus in order for institutions to produce more industry-ready employees.

The meeting briefed on the mismatch of skilled workers in the industry where most wet trades are highly dependent on foreign workers and local workers are shied away from the industry due to the 3D (dirty, dangerous and difficult) perception. The Government and industry should consider targeting on skilled trades where locals are more willing to participate such as positions at supervisory level.

The meeting also suggested that the Government should re-look at the current levy system. The Government should encourage the hiring of skilled workers and with lower rate of levy to be paid. Multilevel levy structure should be introduced to reduce reliance on unskilled workers and at the same time implement the adoption of Industrialised Building System (IBS).

However, the industry and employers are also concerned on the productivity level of the Malaysian employees due to the multiple effect of high number of public holidays granted in the country. With a total of at least 18 days of public holiday and on top of the annual leaves, the industry is losing almost a month of productivity days or hours.

Besides Datuk Astaman, MBAM was also represented by Education & Special Institution Committee Deputy Chairman III Andrew Ong, Committee Member Chong Tshun Ming, Human Resources Development Committee Member Ir. Chuan Yeong Ming and Senior Manager Chai Min Fung.

Webinar with JACTIM on Construction Outlook and Its Challenges

MBAM spoke at the webinar hosted by the Japanese Chamber of Trade & Industry, Malaysia (JACTIM) on 13 April and was represented by Vice President Eric Yong. The webinar was organised in conjunction with JACTIM's monthly Construction Committee Meeting to update their members on the latest development in the Malaysian construction industry.

The Chairman of JACTIM Construction Committee, Ken Yoshitomi welcomed all participants in a simple remark before Eric started his presentation. Eric then briefed on Malaysia's economic performance and construction industry sector performance for the fourth quarter in year 2020. After that, he presented on the construction industry outlook for year 2021 and briefly explained on the allocation of budget for some mega infrastructure projects as announced by the Malaysian Government during the Budget 2021 tabulation. Eric also shared on the challenges faced by the Malaysian construction industry, such as the impact of COVID-19 and Movement Control Order, the enforcement of new housing standards for workers, the rising of building materials prices, the shortage of construction workers and the issue on the recruitment process of foreign workers.

Lastly, Eric presented on the way forward for construction industry. He hoped that more cooperation, collaboration and joint venture between local and international companies such as JACTIM members will take up projects to create more economies of scale to compete for more mega projects locally or abroad. With the COVID-19 vaccination rolling out by phases with the aim to create a herd immunity, MBAM hopes that more foreign investments will come in once the economy recovers and borders re-open.

MITI: YAB Prime Minister meet with Industry Players



The above meeting organised by the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) was attended by MBAM President Tan Sri Sufri Hj Mhd Zin on 15 April at Menara MITI, Kuala Lumpur. Tan Sri Sufri managed to present MBAM's objection to the expansion of Human Resources Development Fund (PSMB) Act 2001 that covers the construction industry and the need to re-introduce Variation of Price (VOP) Clause in controlling the prices of building materials. This matter needs clear decision on whether MBAM's appeal has been considered and the inclusion of VOP clause in Act 829. After the meeting, MBAM has sent a memorandum on the two issues to YAB Prime Minister. Overall, it was a meeting that enabled industry players to engage with the Government in the hope that issues raised can be quickly resolved for the sustained growth of the nation.



President Tan Sri Sufri at the meeting with MITI and YAB Prime Minister

Online Discussion on #MyMudah Issue with Industry on Renewal of Contractor License

The purpose of the meeting held on 16 April was to validate some information regarding renewal of contractor license as MyMudah received a complaint from the public on the matter.

Issues raised including:

1. To enhance the flexibility of Perakuan Kontraktor Tempatan (PKT) validity period;
2. To have clear checklist for supporting documents for renewal of Perakuan Pendaftaran Kontraktor (PPK);
3. Unable to submit tender during renewal period which contributes to potential loss of revenue and projects;
4. The renewal may incur more processing fee; and
5. Time consuming information request.

The advice was for the relevant party to pursue the matter personally with the relevant agency again. The session enabled both organisations to identify and discuss issues and potential solutions that may help improve contractor registration in the industry.

MBAM was represented by President Tan Sri Sufri Hj Mhd Zin, Deputy Sec-Gen 1 Ir. Anthony Teoh, Deputy Sec-Gen 2 Datuk Astaman Abdul Aziz, Executive Director Loh Mei Ling and General Manager, Lenny Lim.

Meeting on Notice of Initiation of Anti-Dumping Duty Investigation with Regard to Imports of Stranded Steel Wires for Prestressing Concrete

Under the chairmanship of the MBAM Technical Committee, Council Member Nalla Sundran held a meeting on the 16 April at MBAM Training Centre with the end users and importers of the precast concrete strands products. The objectives of the meeting were to seek views and responses and to recommend proposals to counter the anti-dumping petition.

The meeting highlighted a similar but short-lived case happened in the 90's where anti-dumping duties were imposed but subsequently after nine months, it was withdrawn after the intervention by the World Trade Organization. It was agreed to response to the petition in two streams, one by the exporters/importers and the other by end users. It was noted that the exporters/importers would have to submit confidential data in their response and the end users may adopt the non-confidential response. MBAM would respond to the petition and submit our views based on the feedback from this meeting on a non-confidential basis. It was agreed that an immediate step was for all parties to immediately write to the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) to request for an extension of at least one month for the submission of response.

In conclusion, all participants unanimously agreed to response and rebuke the petition and to ask MITI to terminate the investigation.

Present at the meeting were Director of BBR Construction Systems (M) Sdn Bhd, Ho Kim-Tuan; General Manager of Engtex Metal Products Sdn Bhd, Tan Sing Kui; Assistant Marketing Manager of Freyssinet PSC (M) Sdn Bhd, Mala Manickiam; Executive Director of Strong Force (M) Sdn Bhd, Shaun Lim; and Director of Wire & Wire Products (M) Sdn Bhd, Robert Chiew.

Besides Nalla, MBAM was represented by Technical Director Ir. Quah Beng Teong, Executive Director Loh Mei Ling, General Manager Michael Thong, as well as Secretariat staff Leon Leong and Nuruljannah Mohd Salleh.

PEMUDAH TWGCG Meeting on Double Contribution of HRDF Funds

The meeting was called by the Technical Working Group on Contracting with the Government (TWGCG) under PEMUDAH on 23 April and it was chaired by its Chairman Foo Chek Lee, who is also MBAM Immediate Past President. Other representatives were Vice Presidents of Pertubuhan Akitek Malaysia Ar. Alvin Lim Hai Seah and Ar. Abu Zarim Bin Abu Bakar, Vice President of Real Estate & Housing Developers' Association Datuk Zaini Yusoff, TWGDGP/TWGPT/MPC Secretariat staff and etc.

Foo briefed that the meeting was called following the PEMUDAH Private Sector Meeting No.3/2021 held on 2 April 2021 raised out the issue of Expansion of the PSMB Act 2001 which included the construction industry with effect from 1 March 2021 and requested that TWGCG to compile more information and prepare a proposal with recommendations.

The meeting agreed that CIDB is the authority to conduct construction industry related training and to do accreditation of construction personnel. Some of the trainings and accreditations are conducted at the practical job site with specific facilities, machines and equipment. The meeting noted that HRDF is unable to support these kind of training for the construction industry.

Professional Engineering Services bodies voiced out that their members are paying annual registration fee to the respective Boards. Requirement to pay to HRDF is considered as paying the levy twice.

The meeting noted that currently, the cost of doing construction business is too high as there are too many compliance costs especially during the COVID-19 pandemic. Enforcement of Act 446 for workers' accommodation, increase of labour cost, materials prices, SOCSO's EIS contribution and etc. All these costs will indirectly cause foreign investors shied away from investing in the country. We hope that Government will look into this matter seriously.

This new requirement to contribute additional levy will cause cash flow issues among employers of the industry especially those sizable companies. The meeting requested all the attending Associations to submit the statistic on estimation of the monthly quantum of contribution contributed to HRDF. The data collected will help to support PEMUDAH in appealing to the Government to abolish this ruling.

Also in attendance were MBAM Senior Manager Chai Min Fung and Executive Officer Jocelyn Ng.

Briefing on Safe@Work

Following the announcement by the Senior Minister of Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI), Dato' Seri Mohamed Azmin Ali on 18 March 2021 introducing the Safe@Work initiative to balance the continuity of manufacturing operations and pandemic control amongst workers, CIDB has organised the briefing with the assistance of MITI to understand and gather feedback if this initiative can be applicable to the building and construction sector. CIDB Senior General Manager of Policy & Corporate Sector, Ahmad Farin Mokhtar delivered the opening remarks for the online meeting held on 28 April.

MITI Industrial Development Division, Principal Assistant Director, Mazmen Abdul Hamid said this programme was presented to the Prime Minister of Malaysia, Tan Sri Dato' Haji Muhyiddin bin Muhammad Yasin on 3 March 2021 and MITI introduced the plan on 1 April 2021 to the manufacturing sector to curb the spread of COVID-19.

Companies can create safe work bubble so that despite COVID cases confirmed, those under close contact can still work within this safe work bubble which of course comes with conditions to comply including overall safety and related SOP. There will be tax incentives up to RM 50,000.00 per company and the programme is voluntary. The system is using the COVID-19 Intelligent Management System (CIMS). Once the company has registered with the system, company can apply to register for the Safe@Work Programme.

Elements of Safe@Work include testing of workers and measures at work, whereas Management of Cases include management of workers and management of accommodation.

MBAM President Tan Sri Sufri Hj Mhd Zin said the construction industry is different compared to the manufacturing industry and there is a need to relook at how the construction industry can comply with the requirements. At present, there are many barriers for the industry to adopt the Safe@Work requirements. Further amendments need to be made to suit the current SOP of the manufacturing sector to the needs of the construction sector. Before the meeting concluded, MBAM requested CIDB to propose the SOP for the construction industry. CIDB will be calling another meeting to discuss their proposal.

Others attending from MBAM were Vice President Chung Soo Kiong, Executive Director Loh Mei Ling, General Manager Lenny Lim and Senior Executive Officer, Shirley Foo.

Other key events attended by MBAM

1 April

Ipsos Virtual Seminar on Final Presentation of Key Findings from Industrial Sectoral Situational Analysis (Core Group) was attended by Deputy Secretary-General 2 Datuk Astaman Abdul Aziz.

2 April

Bank Negara Malaysia (BNM) Virtual Engagement on BNM Annual Report 2020, Economic & Monetary Review 2020 and Financial Stability Review for 2nd Half 2020 was attended by me.

3 April

The Institution of Engineers, Malaysia (IEM) New Membership Grade Launching and Dialogue was attended by General Manager Lenny Lim and I.

5 April

Politeknik Ungku Omar (PUO) Appointment Letter Presentation Ceremony and Industry Advisory Committee Meeting No.1/2021 was attended by President Tan Sri Sufri Hj Mhd Zin at Dewan Jubli Perak, PUO.

CIDB National Construction Industry Development Technical Committee (JIPN-T) Meeting No.1/2021 was attended by Immediate Past President Foo Chek Lee at CIDB, World Trade Centre, Kuala Lumpur.

9 April

CIDB Board Meeting No.2/2021 was attended by President Tan Sri Sufri Hj Mhd Zin at CIDB, World Trade Centre, Kuala Lumpur.

12 April

DOSH Working Committee Meeting on Safety at Heights and Excavations was attended by Safety & Health Committee Members Ruslan Anwar bin Md Saleh and Fo Eugene at DOSH Putrajaya.

13 April

Online Seminar on Presentation of the Drafted Final Report on Industrial Sectoral Situational Analysis was attended by Deputy Secretary-General 2 Datuk Astaman Abdul Aziz, Education Committee Members Chong Tshun Ming and Steven Shee as well as Secretariat Chai Min Fung, Mohd Farhan and Jocelyn Ng.

15 April

Department of Standards (DOS) Technical Committee TC/D/12 Virtual Meeting on Ceramic Materials & Sanitary Fittings was attended by General Manager Michael Thong.

MARVEX First Air-Conditioning, Refrigeration & Ventilation Expo Soft Launch was attended by President Tan Sri Sufri Hj Mhd Zin and Vice President Kenneth Liew at Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre.

20 April

MITI Perdana Iftar Ceremony with Agency and Industry 2021 was attended by Deputy Secretary-General 2 Datuk Astaman Abdul Aziz at Menara MITI, Kuala Lumpur.

23 April

Malaysia Productivity Corporation (MPC) Technical Working Group on Registering Property (TWGRP) Virtual Meeting No.3/2021 was attended by Council Member Lau Yew Mun and General Manager Lenny Lim.

Webinar on "Overview of Section 17A of the MACC Act 2009 a.k.a. is there any reason to start worrying?" was attended by General Manager Lenny Lim.

30 April

PEMUDAH: Technical Working Group on Paying Taxes (TWGPT) Virtual Meeting was attended by Immediate Past President Foo Chek Lee.