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



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Dato' Sri Eric Kuan
MBAM Secretary General

It is a challenging time for all our members and the construction industry. Therefore, I hope that we will be able to come back stronger than ever before and be resilient in facing this challenge which is unimaginable before this. The support for the Association demonstrated by members in our activities and events show that you understand and appreciate the steps that we have taken to increase the value of our services despite the rising cost of running the Association. However, I would like to take this opportunity to call upon members to again assist in getting more members to join the Association, thus projecting a stronger voice and image of the Association.

MBAM is now on LinkedIn and Telegram. Follow us today to get updated news.



HIGHLIGHTS

MBAM Event(s)

pg.1 MBAM welcomed Courtesy Visit from the High Commission of the Republic of Maldives in Malaysia

pg.2 Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) 2021

pg.3 Briefing to Affiliate and Construction Related Associations on Updates by JTK on Act 446 Implementation

MBAM Training(s)

pg.4 Webinar on Versatile Application of UCO Fibre Cement Board

Event(s) Attended by MBAM

pg.4 Engagement Session for Study on Impact and Review of Minimum Wage Order 2020

pg.5 TalentCorp Online Interview with MBAM on Current Critical Occupations List 2020/2021

pg.6 PEMUDAH TWGDCP: Discussion on the Challenges in Obtaining Lift Certificate

pg.6 JTK Meeting with MBAM on Act 446

pg.7 MITI Discussion on MCO

pg.8 Dialogue with Senior Minister of Works on the Rising Price of Building Materials

pg.8 PIKOM Digital Summit 2021

pg.8 BIM Webinar on "How BIM is changing construction industry in Malaysia?"

pg.9 Other Key Events

MBAM Event(s)

MBAM welcomed Courtesy Visit from the High Commission of the Republic of Maldives in Malaysia



President Tan Sri Sufri (fourth from right) presented a memento to Counsellor Shamoon Mohamed

The High Commission of the Republic of Maldives in Malaysia paid a courtesy visit to MBAM on 4 May and was represented by its Counsellor Shamoon Mohamed, and First Secretaries Aminath Sharafnaz and Nadheema Ibrahim. They were welcomed by MBAM President Tan Sri Sufri Hj Mhd Zin together with Vice President and International Affairs (IA) Committee Chairman Chung Soo Kiong, Vice President Kenneth Liew, Council Member and IA Committee Deputy Chairman Ir. Chee Weng Loon, Executive Director Loh Mei Ling, as well as Secretariat Lee Siew Mei and Sung Suet Yee in MBAM Tan Sri Datuk Tee Hock Seng Conference Room.

After a round of brief introduction about MBAM by President Tan Sri Sufri, Shamoon shared that he was glad to know from the Maldives National Association of Council Industry (MNACI) that there was some bilateral understanding initiated between MBAM and MNACI way back in year 2007 through the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). He hoped that both MBAM and MNACI would be able to look into signing of a new MoU with the aim to encourage members from both Associations to develop working relationships which will enhance the capacity of members' contractors of both Associations in exploring the possibilities for joint ventures between the Malaysian and Maldivian construction companies and construction related companies as well as transfer of technology. The idea was well received by President Tan Sri Sufri and he requested the IA Committee to look into this matter.

Meanwhile, both parties have agreed to exchange information on a more regular basis. For a start, the High Commission has shared information on the development project in Hulhumalé, Maldives. The said development project is undertaken by the Housing Development Corporation (HDC) that acts as the master developer, builder and regulator for the development of Hulhumalé. The project involved mega development of a tourism island and integrated development (in Phase 2) as well as a number of large and medium scale projects such as auto centre, shopping mall with parking and office building. The total project cost is estimated to be USD 724,622,783.14. Information on the project has been disseminated to all members. Please check with MBAM Secretariat if you need more details on this.



Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) 2021

The EGM of MBAM was held on 5 May 2021 at 11.00 am via Zoom video conferencing platform with the attendance of 85 members.



Opening remarks by President Tan Sri Sufri

By way of letter dated 1 April 2021, Messrs. Lau Choo Seng & Co. wrote to MBAM to inform the Association that he is unable to act as Auditor for MBAM for financial year ending 31 December 2020. Lau himself is currently abroad and due to the COVID-19 pandemic, he is unable to return to Kuala Lumpur in the foreseeable future.

Clause 11.1.1 of the Constitution stated that in the event that the Auditor resigns or is terminated in the middle of his/its appointment, the Association shall forthwith convene an EGM to elect his/its replacement.

As such, the Council has decided to conduct the EGM and MBAM has carried out the following motions accordingly:

1. Removal of Auditor, Messrs. Lau Choo Seng & Co.
2. Appointment of new Auditor, Messrs. Zamzuri & Co. to replace Messrs. Lau Choo Seng & Co.
3. To determine the new Auditor's Remuneration for the year.

If members need more information on the EGM, please contact MBAM Secretariat for further clarification.

During the EGM, President Tan Sri Sufri Hj Mhd Zin also updated members on MBAM's efforts for the first half of 2021 as follows:

1. MBAM's proposal to improve the Temporary Measures for Reducing the Impact of Corona virus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Act 2020 or Act 829.
2. Postponement of the new ruling on the expansion of the Human Resources Development Fund (PSMB) Act 2001 (Act 612) which included the construction industry to 31 December 2021. However, the postponement will only apply to those companies that have registered with PSMB/HRDF before 30 June 2021.
3. MBAM's appeal and lobbying effort on the latest Amended Act 446 under the Emergency Ordinance.



Attendees during the first virtual EGM

Briefing to Affiliate and Construction Related Associations on Updates by JTK on Act 446 Implementation



Held on 27 May, the virtual meeting was chaired by Immediate Past President and MBAM Human Resources Development (HRD) Committee Chairman Foo Chek Lee. MBAM was also represented by Deputy Secretary-General 2 and HRD Committee Deputy Chairman I Datuk Astaman Abdul Aziz, Deputy Chairman II Mazlan Haron, Committee member Ir. Chuan Yeong Ming, Executive Director Loh Mei Ling, as well as Secretariat Lenny Lim, Chai Min Fung and Jocelyn Ng.

Associations invited to the briefing were Persatuan Kontraktor Melayu Malaysia (PKMM), Persatuan Kontraktor Bumiputera Malaysia (PKBM), Gabungan Persatuan-Persatuan Pembina Malaysia (UMCA), Persatuan Kontraktor India Malaysia (PKIM), Malacca Builders Association, Penang Master Builders and Johore Master Builders Association.

The attendees were briefed on the latest updates from the Department of Labour Peninsular Malaysia (JTKSM) following MBAM's meeting with JTKSM Director-General Asri Ab. Rahman and other representatives on 6 May 2021 at the latter's office in Putrajaya. Earlier on 25 February 2021, MBAM together with PKMM, PKBM, Guild of Bumiputera Contractors Wibawa (GBC Wibawa), UMCA and PKIM wrote a joint memorandum to the Ministry of Human Resources on the latest amendments to the Workers' Minimum Standards of Housing and Amenities Act 1990 (Act 446) under Emergency Ordinance.

Mazlan started the briefing on the latest updates by JTKSM on the implementation and enforcement of Act 446 for construction sector. Foo further elaborated on the outcome of the meeting with JTKSM. Although the enforcement of the Act 446 has been extended to 31 December 2021, JTK will continue with its enforcement across the country without compromise. Notice of warning will be issued to employers who fail to comply with the Act. For serious non-compliance, actions according to the provision of Act will be taken by JTK. However, JTK will still focus on giving advice and guidance to employers in order to ensure all employers are able to comply with the requirement of the Act. Foo reminded that employers to comply with the Act 446 by registering their worker's accommodation with JTKSM.

It was noted that JTKSM is very concerned about the issue of overcrowding, state of hygiene and cleanliness as well as workers' health at workers' accommodation especially during this COVID-19 pandemic. Under the Emergency Ordinance, JTKSM and the enforcement team have the right to direct any employers to shift their workers to the nearest identified hotel if they found that the workers' accommodation is overcrowded or not suitable for human being to live in. Employers could be fined up to RM200,000 per offence or jailed up to three years or both or compounded with RM100,000 if they fail to provide proper housing facilities for workers in accordance to Act 446.

On other matters, Foo mentioned that when applying to get approval for their onsite workers' quarters from the Local Authorities (PBT), the employer must follow the requirements set by Fire and Rescue Department of Malaysia (Bomba). Among the requirement is that the employer must build fire hydrants at the site if there are water supply available, otherwise, they must provide sufficient units of fire extinguishers. Secondly, they must have centralised fire alarm system at the site. However, it is not required to link the system to the nearest Bomba station. Employers are also required to install smoke detectors for cabin with more than six occupants.

Before the meeting ended, Foo reminded the meeting attendees to inform their members' companies to register with the Human Resource Development Corporation (HRD Corp) before 30 June 2021 to entitle them the levy exemption until 31 December 2021.

MBAM Training(s)

Webinar on Versatile Application of UCO Fibre Cement Board



The second session of online webinars organised by MBAM and UAC Berhad was held on 28 May with a total of 124 participants. MBAM Technical & IBS Deputy Chairman, Nalla Sundran delivered the welcome remarks. UAC Berhad Area Sales Manager, Henry Choo was the speaker and he shared on the advantages of UCO fibre cement and how it is being implemented at construction projects. He mentioned that fibre cement products are highly durable, impactful and abrasion-resistant material that can last long. These qualities make fibre cement ideal for heavy-use in public environment like schools, hospitals and many others.

He also mentioned that due to its exceptional durability and hard-wearing nature, fibre cement cladding requires minimal maintenance. This will save time and expense on the structure's maintenance over its life span. There are a lot of advantages in using a fibre cement product as it is resistant to water and fire as well as warping and rotting. The building can also be more stylish and versatile.

We hope to see more participation from MBAM members and business associates in the next session of this very informative webinar. If members are interested to know more about the UAC UCO Fibre Cement, please contact MBAM Senior Assistant Manager, Muhammad Fadzley at mbam18@mbam.org.my

Event(s) Attended by MBAM

Engagement Session for Study on Impact and Review of Minimum Wage Order 2020



Held on 28 April, the meeting was called by the National Wages Consultative Council (NWCC) (Majlis Perundingan Gaji Negara) with the attendance from various non-profit employers and employees organisations and trade associations. It was chaired by Prof. Emeritus Dr. Zakariah bin Abdul Rashid. MBAM was represented by Immediate Past President and HRD Committee Chairman Foo Chek Lee, Deputy Secretary-General 2 and Committee Chairman I Datuk Astaman Abdul Aziz, Committee Chairman II Mazlan Haron as well as Secretariat Chai Min Fung and Jocelyn Ng.

After the welcome remarks by Prof. Dr. Zakariah, the NWCC Secretariat presented the report for the study on the impact of minimum wages implementation under the Minimum Wage Order 2020. The objective of the meeting was to gather feedbacks and suggestions from the various organisations present. The meeting also presented the survey outcome on the effects of the minimum wages on employers.

During the open discussion, various feedbacks and comments were gathered from the participants. The majority of participants did not agree with the proposal to increase the current amount of minimum wages in view of the pandemic. Most of the sectors are struggling to survive, especially the hotels and services sector which were greatly affected by the pandemic.

With the increase in materials cost and imbalance of supply and demand in the market, any increment on the minimum wages will definitely affect the employers. Due to the many existing costs such as EPF, SOCSO and EIS, plus the current COVID-19 SOP compliance cost, employers have no choice but to freeze new employment to cope with tighter budget. This will eventually lead to higher unemployment rate which is in contradiction with the Government's effort to boost the economy.

Representing MBAM, Foo mentioned that in general, construction workers have been paid higher than the minimum wages. As can be seen at most construction sites, the majority are foreign workers as locals are not interested to work in the construction industry. Local workforce have the mind-set that construction works are 3D (Dirty, Dangerous and Difficult). Any increment on the minimum wages will lead to employers cutting workers' allowances to cope with the increased cost of production.

Mazlan also commented that the RM100 difference for urban and rural workers on the minimum wages will cause imbalance as workers will take into consideration the cost of living, transportation and accommodation if they have to transfer to work in rural area and vice versa.

In conclusion, meeting attendees disagreed with the initiative to review the Minimum Wage Order 2020 as in their opinion it is irrelevant and impractical due to the current pandemic situation. Representatives from various organisations were asked to submit suggestions for further review and discussion.

TalentCorp Online Interview with MBAM on Current Critical Occupations List 2020/2021

The interview held on 5 May was to seek understanding on the current Critical Occupations List (COL) in construction industry, and to primarily address the skills mismatch and skilled labour shortage issue in the construction labour market.

COL at present is an intelligence tool used by various government agencies and ministries to address the human capital shortages that fall within all 18 industries defined under the Malaysian Standard Industrial Classification. The study aims to update the COL for year 2020/2021 and to identify interventions to increase its effectiveness in addressing skilled labour shortages.

During the interview, MBAM Immediate Past President and HRD Committee Chairman Foo Chek Lee mentioned that the construction industry has been facing negative growth over the past three years due to slow and lesser number of mega projects being rolled out. Currently, the construction industry is badly affected by the pandemic due to the additional cost for SOPs and Act 446 compliance, increase in building materials' prices, and shortage of (skilled and unskilled) workers, which have caused serious cash flow problems and financial constraints for contractors.

To overcome the shortage of workers, the industry should engage with TVET institutions to look into the industries' needs and to produce graduates with specific skills or talents. Adoption of new technologies such as Industrialised Building System (IBS) or Building Information Modelling (BIM) can help boost productivity and reduce material wastage. Employers also play an important role in sending their workers to get accreditation by government bodies like the Construction Industry Development Board (CIDB) or Department of Occupational Safety and Health (DOSH), to help these workers boost their knowledge and confidence level in doing their jobs. Grants and subsidies from the government should be made available to help companies in overcoming their financial difficulties.

Also in attendance were Deputy Secretary-General 2 cum Deputy Chairman I Datuk Astaman Abdul Aziz, Deputy Chairman II Mazlan Haron, and Secretariat Chai Min Fung and Jocelyn Ng. The interview session was conducted by representatives from Frost & Sullivan Malaysia and TalentCorp.

PEMUDAH TWGDCP: Discussion on the Challenges in Obtaining Lift Certificate

The PEMUDAH Technical Working Group on Dealing with Construction Permit (TWGDCP) was chaired by Co-Chair Dato' Dr. Ir. Andy Seo Kian Haw on 5 May. Representing MBAM were Vice President Kenneth Liew, HRD Committee Deputy Chairman II Mazlan Haron, General Manager Lenny Lim and Senior Assistant Manager Leon Leong.

There was a discussion on the delay in getting appointments for lift inspection and in the issuance of Certificate of Completion and Compliance (CCC). Clarification was requested on the delay in getting appointment for inspection. There is also a question by construction industry players that if there are no further comments after 14 days of inspection, then can it be deemed acceptable that the Principle Submitting Person (PSP) to issue the CCC? The meeting hoped to clarify if silence equals consent from the Department of Occupational Safety and Health (DOSH). Previously, the committee was informed by DOSH that there were no issues. However, DOSH informed that there is a resource issue. After inspection, remarks are usually given. Once billing is made by DOSH officer and payment is made by client, the relevant approval can be issued by DOSH.

In conclusion, the professionals such as DOSH and stakeholders from the lift industry must work together to agree on the recommendations or find a workable solution to help improve Malaysia's standing in the World Bank Ranking for dealing with construction permit. Currently, Malaysia is ranked number 2 out of 190 world economies in 2020.

The meeting was informed that DOSH has a client charter and Dato' Andy Seo encouraged The Malaysian Lift and Escalator Association (MALEA) to have a client charter as well.



JTK Meeting with MBAM on Act 446



MBAM was called for a meeting with the Director General of Department of Labour Peninsular Malaysia (JTKSM), Asri Ab. Rahman on 6 May following the earlier submission of a joint memorandum to the Ministry of Human Resources (MOHR) by MBAM and six Affiliated and related construction Associations.

At the meeting, MBAM was represented by Immediate Past President cum Chairman of Human Resources Development (HRD) Committee Foo Chek Lee, Deputy Chairman II Mazlan Haron, Executive Director Loh Mei Ling and Senior Manager Chai Min Fung.

According to Asri, the utmost key requirement of compliance to the Workers' Minimum Standards of Housing and Amenities Act 1990 (Act 446) under Emergency Ordinance is for employers to register their workers' accommodation with JTKSM. Registration can be made through JTK website at <http://jtksm.mohr.gov.my> or email to ktksm@mohr.gov.my.

Although the enforcement of the Act 446 has been delayed to 31 December 2021, JTK will continue with its enforcement actions across the country. Notice of warning will be issued to employers who fail to comply with the Act. For serious non-compliance, actions according to the provision of Act will be taken by JTK. However, JTK will still focus on giving advice and guidance to employers in order to ensure all employers are able to comply with the requirement of the Act comes 31 December 2021. Foo reminded employers to comply with the Act 446 by registering their worker's accommodation with JTKSM.

JTKSM is very concerned with the issue of overcrowding, the state of hygiene and cleanliness as well as workers' health at workers' accommodation especially during this COVID-19 pandemic. According to JTK's report, more than 76% of the 17,486 accommodations checked was not in compliance with the requirement. 90% of employers were required to modify and improve their accommodations to ensure the places are safe to stay for workers.

The meeting also informed that the Ministry of Federal Territories is in the process of identifying few plots of government's land to build Centralised Labour Quarters (CLQ) for foreign workers. The CLQs will address the space congestion and logistic issues in the city centre. MOHR also informed that there will be no onsite TLQs allowed after three years from now and all workers are to be placed at CLQs. However, JTK noted that they intend to solve the TLQ issue in two years' time. The relevant ministries are preparing a proposal paper on CLQ set up details. MBAM was also urged to build its own CLQ for the industry.

At the end of the meeting, Asri requested for the construction industry to come out with a clear plan on how the industry can support the government on Act 446 implementation. Foo informed that MBAM has organised a Seminar on Act 446 to brief and provide updated information on the implementation of Act 446 in Kuala Lumpur back in March and is planning to organise similar seminars in Penang and Johor.

MITI Discussion on MCO



The Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) held a virtual discussion on 10 May to talk about the Movement Control Order (MCO) and it was attended by MBAM Deputy Secretary-General 1 Ir. Anthony Teoh and General Manager Lenny Lim.

The meeting chaired by MITI Secretary-General Dato' Lokman Hakim Ali was called to discuss on matters regarding the implementation of MCO until 6 June 2021. Attendees were informed that MITI may remove the COVID Information Management System (CIMS) letter of notification subject to approval from National Security Council (NSC). Employees just need to show letter or work employment card. MITI and Royal Malaysia Police (PDRM) have warned against abuse of the employer's letter. The attendance limit of 30% of management still applies but for operation staff, the management has discretion. However, employers are asked to reduce number of staff at office and to encourage work-from-home.

The meeting was informed that the Hotspot Identification for Dynamic Engagement (HIDE) is meant as a pre-emptive measure to allow greater public precaution. Once an employer is listed, then the employers must implement better gatekeeping measures i.e. MySejahtera registration and sanitisation measures to ensure COVID-19 is not spread further to the community.

****Please refer to updated directive and information from the government from time to time.***

Dialogue with Senior Minister of Works on the Rising Price of Building Materials



The online dialogue chaired by the Senior Minister of Works, YB Dato' Sri Haji Fadillah Bin Haji Yusof was held on 18 May. The issue of rising building materials prices has caused problems for the contractors and the industry was very pleased that YB Senior Minister has allowed the industry a platform to provide feedback and proposal to overcome the issue.

As a solution, MBAM proposed to bring back the Variation of Price (VOP) clause for projects in both government and private sectors for essential building materials in the contract. YB Senior Minister took note of MBAM's proposal and will raise it in the next cabinet meeting and to the Ministry of Finance.

MBAM was represented by President Tan Sri Sufri Hj Mhd Zin, Vice President Eric Yong and I. Other contractors Associations present included the Persatuan Kontraktor Melayu Malaysia (PKMM), Persatuan Kontraktor Bumiputera Malaysia (PKBM), Persatuan Kontraktor India Malaysia (PKIM) and Guild of Bumiputera Contractors Wibawa (GBC Wibawa).

PIKOM Digital Summit 2021

Series 1 and 2 of The National Tech Association of Malaysia (PIKOM) Digital Summit 2021 was held on 19 and 20 May 2021 respectively via virtual conference. Series 1 on Technology Leadership Session talked about various topics such as on Artificial Intelligence (AI), Cloud Computing and Big Data. There were two panel discussions namely "On Cloud 9 – Weathering the Digital World" and "Navigating the New Normal with AI & Big Data". Series 2 was on Future of Cybersecurity Session and MBAM ICT-Automation-Robotic Deputy Chairman Alex Liew was the Moderator for the Panel Discussion 1 on "Cybersecurity in the Digital Era". The session ended with Panel Discussion 2 on "Navigating the New Normal with AI and Big Data".



Panel Session 1 - Cyber Security in Digital Era

BIM Webinar on "How BIM is changing construction industry in Malaysia?"



A two-hour session of Building Information Modelling (BIM) Webinar on "How BIM is changing construction industry in Malaysia?" organised by Hilti Malaysia and the Construction Industry Development Board (CIDB) was held on 24 May. Attended by over 400 participants, the session shared on how properly setting up BIM processes in a project will bring about overall huge benefit in terms of transparency, productivity and safety.

The four topics presented included Leading Malaysia Changes for BIM, JKR's BIM Projects Outlook, Overcoming challenges in BIM Project Implementation, and the Future of BIM in Malaysia from Hilti's Perspective. MBAM together with The Institution of Engineers, Malaysia (IEM) were the supporting organisations for the webinar.

Other key events attended by MBAM

27 April

Virtual Meeting on Development of ILO-MBAM Collaboration on Pilot Projects for TVET/Skills in Construction Sector under the Skills for Prosperity Programme – Malaysia was attended by HRD Committee comprising of Chairman/Immediate Past President Foo Chek Lee, Deputy Chairman I/Deputy Secretary-General 2 Datuk Astaman Abdul Aziz, Members Andrew Ong and Ir. Chuan Yeong Ming, Executive Director Loh Mei Ling, as well as Secretariat Chai Min Fung and Jocelyn Ng.

4 May

TVET Special Task Force Virtual Meeting No.2/2021 under the National Employment Council (NEC) was attended by Deputy Secretary-General 2 and Deputy Chairman I of HRD Committee Datuk Astaman Abdul Aziz, Senior Manager Chai Min Fung and Executive Officer Jocelyn Ng.

5 May

MyREF Virtual Discussion on Review of Institutional Mechanism for Industry Engagement in TVET/Skill Training in Malaysia was attended by Deputy Chairman II of HRD Committee Member Mazlan Haron and Deputy Chairman III of MBAM Education & Special Institutions Committee Andrew Ong.

CIDB Virtual Meeting on Labour Wages Survey with General Manager, Building Cost Information Services Malaysia (BCISM), Sr Nazir Muhamad Nor was attended by MBAM HRD Committee Member Mazlan Haron, Executive Director Loh Mei Ling, as well as Secretariat Michael Thong, Chai Min Fung and Sung Suet Yee.

National Council for Occupational Safety and Health (NCOSH): National Council Meeting for Occupational Safety No.1/2021 and MNKKP Appreciation & Appointment Ceremony 2021 was attended by Council Member and Chairman of Safety & Health Committee Michael Yap at Hotel Le Meridien, Putrajaya.

7 May

PEMUDAH TWGDPC Meeting on Fire Inspection/Review Requirements for Temporary Labour Quarters (TLQ) at Construction Sites was attended by Immediate Past President Foo Chek Lee and Senior Manager Chai Min Fung.

21 May

Virtual Special Session between Prime Minister of Malaysia and the Industry was attended by Deputy Secretary-General 1 Ir. Anthony Teoh.

25 May

International Labour Organization (ILO) Virtual Regional Webinar on Skills for Prosperity in South East Asia Programme was attended by Deputy Chairman III of MBAM Education & Special Institutions Committee Andrew Ong.