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MBAM APP

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CONTENTS

MBAM thanks the Government for giving serious attention to revive the construction industry following Budget 2021 announcement. MBAM is happy to note that the Government is reviving and ensuring that mega projects with an allocation of RM 15 billion for projects like Mass Rapid Transit Line 3 (MRT3), Gemas-Johor Double Tracking Project, Rapid Transit System from Johor Bahru to Woodlands, Klang Valley First Phase Double Tracking Project and Pan Borneo Highway will continue to run smoothly to serve as a catalyst for positive growth for the construction industry. MBAM hopes that with all the announced budget allocation for the construction industry, the Government through the Ministry of Works will quickly roll out and implement all the projects as it is vital for the industry to revive again.



Eric Yong
MBAM Secretary General

HIGHLIGHTS

MBAM Events

- pg.1 Meeting with CIDB on MYFutureJobs Programme
- pg.2 Certified Construction Manager (CCM) Meeting with Professor Sr Dr Padzil@Fadzil Hassan
- pg.2 Courtesy Visit to HR Webinar Speakers: "Latest Policies on Foreign Workers and Expat Recruitment during the Pandemic"

MBAM Trainings

- pg.2 Webinar on "Latest Policies on Foreign Workers and Expat Recruitment during the Pandemic"

Event Attended by MBAM

- pg.4 Online Engagement Session on e-Shared Prosperity Organisation (eSPO) with Construction Sector
- pg.4 Online Discussion and Interview Session for COVID-19 Pandemic Impact Study on Labour Market, Retrenchment and Job Opportunities in Malaysia
- pg.4 Meeting on the Establishment of Task Force Technical Committee Relating to Legal Compliance and Labour Policy for Construction Sector Employees by Department of Labour
- pg.5 IFAWPCA Registration Committee
- pg.6 Other key events attended by MBAM



» pg.1



» pg.2



» pg.4

» pg.5

MBAM Events

Meeting with CIDB on MYFutureJobs Programme

Held on 10 November 2020 at CIDB HQ, the meeting was chaired by General Manager of Construction Personnel Division of CIDB Saini Saidi attended by MBAM Vice President cum Chairman of Human Resources Committee Dennis Tan, Council member cum HR Committee Deputy Chairman Datuk Astaman Abdul Aziz, HR Committee Member Mazlan Haron and secretariat staff. Also present was CIDB Senior Manager Hil Me Hj Md Isa and the Manager Yusrill Haffiz Hamzah.

The meeting discussed on issues related to MYFutureJobs Programme by Social Security Organisation (SOCSO) which was announced by Ministry of Human Resources (MOHR) to replace JobsMalaysia whereby all employers who intend to employ foreign workers through the re-hiring programme and also the hiring of expatriate application are required to advertise the job vacancy first on the national job portal, MYFutureJobs.

Employers are to advertise job vacancy at MYFutureJobs portal for a minimum of 30 days. They are to ensure all information pertaining to the vacancy such as job title, salary offered, academic qualifications or required skills and competencies are provided in the portal. Employers are required to conduct interview sessions within 30 days from the date the vacancy is advertised and submit the required interview outcome report to SOCSO.

At the same time, employers are also required to register and apply through the Integrated Foreign Workers Management System / Sistem Pengurusan Pekerja Asing Bersepadu (ePPAX) as a condition of compliance with labour law for the employment of foreign workers.

The concern raised by the meeting was how CIDB can help the construction industry to speed up the process of recruiting foreign worker because this new programme will take approximately one month or more for processing. It was noted that CIDB will take necessary action to discuss further with SOCSO on the implementation in the construction industry.



During the meeting with CIDB



HR Committee represented MBAM at the meeting, from left: Mazlan, Datuk Astaman, Dennis

Note: Subsequent to the above meeting, the Government decided to postpone the implementation of MYFutureJobs to 1 January 2021 from 1 November 2020 after receiving feedback from the industries. Information on registration for both employer and jobseeker can be found at <https://www.myfuturejobs.gov.my>.

Certified Construction Manager (CCM) Meeting with Professor Sr Dr Padzil@Fadzil Hassan

The virtual meeting hosted by MBAM was held via Zoom on 16 November. MBAM was represented by Vice President cum Chairman of HR Committee Dennis Tan, Executive Director Loh Mei Ling and Manager Mohd Farhan to discuss on the implementation of the CCM Training Programme by MBAM. It was noted that Professor Fadzil will be the lead trainer for MBAM and to come out with the working paper for further discussion. Besides that, Professor Fadzil highlighted that under the recent budget announcement by the Government, for upskilling programme, UiTM will be requesting for fund and hope to work with MBAM for the relevant trainings as an added value to the students.

Note: MBAM has been certified as Pusat Latihan Bertauliah Kontraktor (PLBK) for CCM Programme by CIDB Malaysia.

Courtesy Visit to HR Webinar Speakers: “Latest Policies on Foreign Workers and Expat Recruitment during the Pandemic”

Vice President cum Chairman of HR Committee Dennis Tan and Secretariat paid a courtesy visit to the speakers for the upcoming HR Webinar throughout third week of November.



19 November – Principal Assistance Director of Labour, Department of Labour, Suraiya Ch'ng Bt Abdullah



20 November – Construction Labour Exchange Centre Bhd (CLAB) Chief Executive Officer, Abdul Rafik Abdul Rajis



24 November – Deputy Assistant Director, Foreign Workers Management Division, Ministry of Home Affairs, Khairul Anwar Bin Dahalan

MBAM Training

Webinar on “Latest Policies on Foreign Workers and Expat Recruitment during the Pandemic”





More than 140 participants attended a webinar on “Latest Policies on Foreign Workers and Expat Recruitment during the Pandemic” organised by MBAM HR Committee that was held on 25 November 2020.

The speakers for the webinar namely the Deputy Assistant Director of Foreign Workers Management Division, Ministry of Home Affairs, Khairul Anwar Dahalan, Head of Legal Unit, Department of Labour Peninsular Malaysia, Suraiya Ch’ng Abdullah, and Operations Manager, Construction Labour Exchange Centre Berhad (CLAB) Rohaidah Safuan. The moderator was MBAM Vice President cum HR Committee Chairman, Dennis Tan.

Khairul Anwar Dahalan briefed on the Minister of Home Affairs’ latest policy and procedures on the undocumented foreign workers recalibration plan that commenced from 16 November 2020 and ends on 30 June 2021. The Recalibration Plan consisted of Return Recalibration Programme and the Labour Recalibration Programme. It was implemented by Ministry of Human Resources through the Peninsular Malaysia Labour Department in collaboration with the Malaysian Immigration Department.

Only four sectors are allowed to legally employ undocumented foreign workers under the Labour Recalibration Plan for undocumented immigrants, namely, construction, manufacturing, plantation and agriculture sectors. The ministry did not appoint any third party to manage both programmes. He mentioned that the Government has imposed a moratorium on the intake of new foreign workers until 31 December 2020 and is expected to extend until the end of the recalibration plan on 30 June 2021. Thereafter, the enforcement on illegal foreign workers will be carried out. Employers who are found guilty on hiring illegal foreign workers will be penalised.

Suraiya Ch’ng Abdullah spoke on the salient aspects of Employees Minimum Standards of Housing, Accommodations and Amenities (Accommodation and Centralized Accommodation) Regulations 2020 – Act 446. Her brief included areas of compliances under the Regulations-accommodation, facilities, Certificate for Accommodation (CoA) and others. Employers or centralized accommodation providers are required to apply CoA before accommodating the employees in the premises. She advised employers to provide a better and conducive environment to their employees especially during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The final presentation by Rohaidah Safuan was on the process and procedures of Employer Exchange Programme for the Employment of Foreign Workers. She informed that CLAB was appointed by the Ministry of Works to manage application under this programme for construction sector with effect from 1 August 2020. She also touched on the eligibility requirements of new employer for this programme and categories of foreign workers that are not eligible to participate in this programme. The advantages of using CLAB for this programme was also elaborated.

Senior Manager of Construction Personnel Registration Division, Construction Industry Development Board Malaysia (CIDB), Hil Me Haji Md Isa, who was invited to attend the webinar assisted to answer some questions related to the construction industry during the Q&A sessions.

Events Attended by MBAM

Online Engagement Session on e-Shared Prosperity Organisation (eSPO) with Construction Sector

The meeting held on 2 November via Microsoft Teams was chaired by the Director of Productivity Linked Wage System (PLWS) Malaysia Productivity Corporation (MPC) Sugumar Saminathan and attended by MBAM Vice President cum HR Committee Chairman Dennis Tan, Committee Members Mazlan Haron and Chong Tshun Ming, Executive Director Loh Mei Ling and Manager Mohd Farhan.

In line with the Shared Prosperity Vision 2030, MPC is promoting Wealth Creation and Wealth Sharing through PLWS which establishes link between productivity and performance with wages. In order to recognise and acknowledge organisation that embedded PLWS in their compensation system, MPC has developed an online system called eShared Prosperity Organisation (eSPO) that issues electronic certificate to organisation that successfully implemented PLWS.

MBAM was invited by MPC to provide feedback on the questions outlined for construction sector and valuable recommendation on the eSPO system.

Online Discussion and Interview Session for COVID-19 Pandemic Impact Study on Labour Market, Retrenchment and Job Opportunities in Malaysia



The meeting hosted by Institute for Labour Market Information and Analysis (ILMIA) via Skype Platform on 6 November was chaired by ILMIA Senior Director Betty Bt Hasan. MBAM was represented by Vice President cum HR Committee Chairman Dennis Tan, Committee Member Mazlan Haron, Executive Director Loh Mei Ling and Manager Mohd Farhan.

ILMIA has been given the responsibility by the Honourable Minister in the Prime Minister's Department (Economy) through the Economic Planning Unit (EPU) to conduct a study on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the labour market especially in terms of layoff and re-employment opportunities. This study is important in balancing the labour market survey data (LFS) made by the Department of Statistics Malaysia (DOSM). This study began on 23 October 2020 and will end on 15 December 2020.

Meeting on the Establishment of Task Force Technical Committee Relating to Legal Compliance and Labour Policy for Construction Sector Employees by Department of Labour

The meeting hosted by Department of Labour (JTKSM) via Skype Platform on 23 November was chaired by Director of JTK Labour Standards Mohd Asri Abdul Wahab. MBAM was represented by Vice President cum HR Committee Chairman Dennis Tan, Council Member cum Deputy Chairman Datuk Astaman Abdul Aziz, Committee Member Mazlan Haron, Executive Director Loh Mei Ling and Manager Mohd Farhan. Also in attendance were the representatives from Construction Labour Exchange Berhad, Ministry of Home Affairs, Immigration Department of Malaysia, Ministry of Works, Construction Industry Development Board and Ministry of Human Resources.

The objectives of the Task Force Committee are as follows:

- 1) To ensure that the industry fully comply with the relevant legal provisions, current labour policy and implement protection as well as social responsibility towards employees who are an important fundamental principle of International Labour Standards.
- 2) Enhance strategic cooperation between relevant Ministries / Departments / Agencies as well as industry organisations / associations in coordinating promotional activities as well as improving good and healthy labour practices.

It was noted that this Task Force Committee will be meeting at least four times a year or more or as needed which will be advised by the JTKSM's secretariat. MBAM hopes this platform will allow the industry to raise and find solutions with regards to the HR matters in the construction sector.



Datuk Astaman, Dennis and Mazlan participating in the meeting



IFAWPCA Registration Committee

IFAWPCA Executive Board Member and Finance Committee Chairman Foo Chek Lee chaired a series of pre IFAWPCA Registration Meetings with IFAWPCA Secretariat respectively on 13, 20 and 27 November 2020 via online to discuss matters concerning IFAWPCA registration. To address the non-registration of IFAWPCA, the Committee unanimously agreed the proposal by Legal Advisor John Tong and Contract Officer Anne Roa that the Executive Board to the registration of IFAWPCA, Inc. as a local business league in the Philippines after considering of the legal and financial aspects in the said country.

Members of the IFAWPCA Registration Committee are representatives from the Master Builders Association Malaysia (Chairman), Construction Association of Korea (CAK), Overseas Construction Association of Japan, Inc. (OCAJI), Philippine Constructors' Association (PCA), Singapore Contractors Association Limited (SCAL), Thailand Construction Association (TCA), Legal Advisor John Tong and Executive Director Levy Espiritu and Contract Officer Anne Rao.



Other Key Events Attended by MBAM

2 November

Ministry of Works (MOW) Strategic Working Committee Meeting on Pandemic Management for Development and Infrastructure (JKSPP-PI) No.1/2020 was attended by President Foo Chek Lee at MOW Office, Kuala Lumpur.

5 November

MOW Engagement Session Meeting on Pandemic Management (Working Group 5) Development and Infrastructure (KK5-PI) was attended by President Foo Chek Lee and Deputy President Tan Sri Sufri Hj. Mohd Zin at MOW Office, Kuala Lumpur.

6 November

The live telecast viewing of the Tabling of Budget 2021 was attended by President Foo Chek Lee and I, with several Principal Officers and Council Members at MBAM Tan Sri Datuk Tee Hock Seng Conference Room.

9 November

MOW Strategic Meeting on Pandemic Management (Working Group 5) Development and Infrastructure (MSPPKK5) No.1/2020 was attended by President Foo Chek Lee and General Manager Lenny Lim via Skype.

Technical Committee Meeting on Code of Practice for Design of Concrete Structure was attended by Technical & IBS Committee Member Ir. Quah Beng Teong and General Manager Michael Thong via Zoom.

13 November

PEMUDA Meeting to Discuss Issues Related to the Policy of Buying Malaysian-Made Goods in the Construction Sector No.3/2020 was attended by President Foo Chek Lee, Council Member Alec Chong and General Manager Lenny Lim via Microsoft Teams.

MPC PLWS Webinar Series 2020 'Developing the Future Talent through TVET' was attended by Manager Mohd Farhan via Zoom.

16 November

Bank Negara Malaysia Engagement with SME Associations on Repayment Assistance was attended by Treasurer-General Kenneth Liew and General Manager Lenny Lim via Microsoft Teams.

17 November

National Standards Committee Meeting on Metallic Materials and Semi Finish Products was attended by General Manager Michael Thong at Ibis Hotel, Kuala Lumpur.

18 November

Meeting on WG/D/R Ceramic Tiles was attended by General Manager Michael Thong via Zoom.

CIDB Certified Construction Manager, Act 520 and Due Recognition for Construction Management Professionals was attended by Manager Mohd Farhan via Google Meet.

19 November

PEMUDA Private Sector Virtual Meeting No.20/2020 was attended by President Foo Chek Lee via Cisco Webex.

MOW Industry Players Engagement Session with YB Senior Minister of Works: Increasing Covid-19 Cases in the Construction Industry was attended by President Foo Chek Lee via Cisco Webex.

23 November

PEMUDA Meeting No.2/2020 - Invitation for Paper Presentation: Proposal on Buy Malaysia Products First was attended by President Foo Chek Lee via Cisco Webex.

24 November

Meeting on WG/M/6-1 Fire Rated Lift Landing Door was attended by General Manager Michael Thong via Zoom.

Meeting on TC/D/6 Steel Bars and Wire Rods Products was attended by General Manager Michael Thong via Zoom.

Technical Committee Meeting for CIS22: Safe Use of Scaffolding in Construction, 2017 and CIS23: Safe Use of Falsework and Formwork in Construction 2018 – No.1/2020 was attended by Council Member and Safety & Health Committee Chairman Michael Yap via Zoom.

25 November

UTHM Short Briefing (Double Tax Deduction Programme by TalentCorp) was attended by Council Member Datuk Astaman Abdul Aziz via virtual platform.

26 November

SIRIM/SPAN Technical Meeting on Taps and Shower Heads was attended by General Manager Michael Thong via Microsoft Teams.

Stakeholders Consultation Webinar Session for Technical Specifications Draft of the National Water Services Commission (SPAN TS) was attended by Vice President Dennis Tan, Environment Committee Member Gan Wah Lien and Assistant General Manager Lee Siew Mei via Microsoft Teams.

27 November

CIDB Materials/Standards Division Meeting on Thin Ceramic Tiles was attended by General Manager Michael Thong via Zoom.



ERIC YONG SHANG MING
Secretary-General