

Talk on “Transforming Construction Practices Through Statutory Improvement – ACT 520 Amendment 2011”



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CIVIL AND STRUCTURAL ENGINEERING TECHNICAL DIVISION

IN conjunction with the 27th C&SETD AGM, the IEM Civil and Structural Engineering Technical Division organised a talk on 20th July, 2013 at IEM, Petaling Jaya which was attended by 101 participants.

The speaker, En. Hj. Abdul Razak bin Husin, began his legal practice at Messrs Shearn & Delamore before joining the Judicial and Legal service. He is currently the General Manager of Enforcement Division, Construction Industry Development Board (CIDB) of Malaysia.

En. Hj. Abdul Razak started the talk with a brief overview of the construction practice, the laws governing the construction industry, the functions and the authority of CIDB, its enforcement power and impact on the Malaysian Construction industry.

The lecture started with an introduction to the various legislations regulating the various phases along the Construction Supply Chain – from Project Development Inception Stage, Land Conversion, Planning Permission, Building Plan Approval, Procurement Process, Construction Process and Building Delivery to Extension, Renovation and Demolition Works stages. The related Acts and Bylaws at the various Supply Chain Stages and namely CIDB Act 520 were highlighted.

The major issues in the Construction industry, such as Quality, Cost, Time (delay completion), Health and Safety were explained. The ultimate goal and objective of the Amendment Act 520 is to achieve Quality Construction Output by controlling the three variables namely Management of Contractors, Materials and Workmanship. Besides levy, delegation of power, compound and the enforcement aspects, the amended Act 520 also seeks to register construction personnel, put emphasis on the Contractor’s responsibilities and regulate the Quality and Safe Construction Works and Standard of Workmanship and Materials.

He explained the publication on the Code of Ethics for Contractors and discussed the issues relating to the implementation of the minimum wages for the construction sector. He also highlighted construction related injuries and deaths as well as illustrated unsafe work practices and work related accidents with the help of site photographs and case studies. The recurring subject of unregistered workers at the construction sites was also raised up by CIDB.

In summary the concluding pointers are:

1. Uphold and upgrade quality work and the use of standard construction materials for the industry as per the laws enacted for the said purpose,
2. Registration, Training and Regulation of the workforce (including contractors) in the Malaysian Construction industry,
3. Emphasise work safety requirements as safety is an investment rather than a cost element,
4. The investigative and enforcement powers of CIDB by way of fines and penalties as per Section 33A of the Act for the Regulation of the work on site and the use of Standard Construction materials.

The Civil and Structural Engineering Technical Division registered a note of thanks to the Speaker and moderator Ir. Oon Chee Kheng with a token of appreciation. ■

Ir. Ong Sang Woh is chairman of the Civil and Structural Engineering Technical Division of IEM.