

Document	Welcome Speech for Networking Hi-Tea
Spokesperson	Yang Berbahagia Dato' Sr Mohd Zaid Zakaria Chief Executive Officer Construction Industry Development Board (CIDB) Malaysia
Draft Date and Version	Monday, 21 October 2024; V3
Word count	749 words [including sub-headlines]

Distinguished guests, esteemed colleagues, and valued partners.

Salam sejahtera and good afternoon.

1. It is my privilege to welcome you to the **International Construction Week (ICW) and Malaysia International Building and Construction Industry Showcase (BuildXpo) 2024**. This event stands as a testament to our industry's resilience, innovation, and unwavering commitment to progress.
2. As we convene today, we find ourselves at a critical juncture in the evolution of Malaysia's construction sector. Despite the challenges posed by recent global events, our industry has demonstrated remarkable adaptability, contributing 3.6% to our nation's GDP in 2023.
3. This resilience underscores the vital role construction plays in Malaysia's economic landscape and sets the stage for the transformative journey ahead.

Forging Partnerships for Progress

4. I extend our heartfelt gratitude to **Qube Integrated Malaysia**, our event manager and strategic partner, whose expertise has ensured the seamless execution of this event.

5. **A special thank you also goes to Gamuda Berhad**, our Platinum Partner, whose visionary approach to sustainable infrastructure, exemplified by projects like the Penang South Islands, is reshaping our industry's future.
6. Their commitment to environmental stewardship aligns perfectly with our collective aspirations for a greener, more sustainable Malaysia.
7. We also recognise the invaluable contributions of the **Malaysia External Trade Development Corporation (MATRADE)**, whose International Sourcing Programme (INSP) has been instrumental in propelling Malaysian companies onto the global stage.
8. Their efforts in facilitating international connections are crucial as we seek to enhance our industry's competitiveness and global reach.
9. We are incredibly grateful for the steadfast support from the **Malaysia Convention & Exhibition Bureau (MyCEB)**, the **Social Security Organisation (PERKESO)**, and the **MRSM Malaysia Student Association (ANSARA)**, whose contributions have been instrumental in bringing this event to life.
10. We would also like to extend a heartfelt thank you to **The Star Media Group**, our strategic partner, for organising The Future Cities Summit as well as their unwavering support throughout the management of ICW and BuildXpo.
11. We would also like to thank all our esteemed conference and content partners for their dedication. A special note of appreciation goes to our **Supporting Organisations, Associations, and all CIDB Subsidiaries**, whose involvement has

been key to the success of this gathering. Together, we are building a stronger, more resilient industry for the future.

Embracing Innovation and Sustainability

12. To our exhibitors, you represent the cutting edge of construction innovation. Your embrace of technologies like Building Information Modelling (BIM) is not just advancing our industry; it's redefining it.
13. As we navigate the complexities of modern construction, your ingenuity will be the cornerstone of our success.
14. **CIDB's Construction 4.0 Strategic Plan (2021-2025)** serves as our blueprint for the future, focusing on digital transformation and sustainability.
15. This comprehensive roadmap is designed to elevate our industry's capabilities, ensuring we not only meet but exceed the evolving demands of our time.

Collaborative Excellence

16. The spirit of collaboration permeating this event is truly inspiring. Our conference partners, supporting organisations, and industry associations have been instrumental in driving the adoption of green building standards.
17. The certification of 671 projects by the **Green Building Index**, covering 300 million square feet, is a clear indicator of our collective commitment to sustainable development.

CIDB's Vision for the Future

18. As the custodian of Malaysia's construction industry, CIDB is committed to fostering an environment of innovation and excellence.
19. The fact that 75% of our construction professionals are poised to increase their investment in construction technologies speaks volumes about our industry's forward-thinking mindset.
20. We stand ready to support this digital transformation, championing the adoption of BIM and other cutting-edge technologies that will revolutionise how we conceive, build, and maintain our nation's infrastructure.

A Call to Action

21. As we embark on this exciting journey of transformation, I urge each of you to seize the opportunities presented by ICW and BuildXpo 2024.
22. The connections forged here today will be the foundation of tomorrow's innovations and collaborations.
23. Together, we have the power to shape a construction industry that is not only efficient and technologically advanced but also inclusive, sustainable, and resilient.
24. Let us set new benchmarks for excellence, not just for Malaysia, but for the global construction community.

25. Thank you for your presence and participation. I look forward to engaging with you throughout this event and witnessing firsthand the groundbreaking ideas and partnerships that will emerge.

26. May this gathering inspire us all to build a brighter, more sustainable future for generations to come.

Thank you.

Yang Berbahagia Dato' Sr Mohd Zaid Zakaria
Chief Executive Officer
Construction Industry Development Board (CIDB) Malaysia