



21 JUL, 2019

## CIDB uses Sustainable Infrastar to assess construction projects

New Sunday Times, Malaysia



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### RATING TOOL

# CIDB uses Sustainable Infrastar to assess construction projects

**KUALA LUMPUR:** The Sungai Besi-Ulu Kelang Elevated Expressway and Damansara-Shah Alam Elevated Expressway will be the latest projects assessed using the Sustainable Infrastructure Rating Tool (Sustainable Infrastar) by the Construction Industry Development Board (CIDB).

CIDB chief executive Datuk Ahmad Asri Abdul Hamid said there were five infrastructure construction pioneer projects being assessed under this rating tool.

The projects are the Regional Sewage Treatment Plant in Bandar Indera Mahkota, Kuantan, Pahang; Power Generation Plant in Sandakan, Sabah; Kahang Dam construction in Kluang; the Setiawangsa-Pantai Expressway and the West Coast Expressway (Banting to Taiping).

"The projects will be assessed during the pre-construction stage for provisional rating and upon completion for full rating. The projects that get more than 40 per cent points will be given one-star, five-star being the highest score," he said recently.

Asri said the rating tool, which was launched in March this year



*Construction Industry Development Board chief executive Datuk Ahmad Asri Abdul Hamid in an interview in Kuala Lumpur recently. PIC BY ASYRAF HAMZAH*

by Works Minister Baru Bian, would tackle the issue of Environment Sustainability, one of the strategic thrusts under the Construction Industry Transformation Programme 2016-2020 (CITP 2016-2020).

He said this crucial part was often sidelined when project developers want to complete the

construction jobs quickly and at a minimal cost.

"There was a lack of awareness and competency in the construction and design."

Asri said the CITP 2016-2020 was created so that players could do away with the old ways of construction.

He said the ministry had set a

target of getting 50 per cent of the projects, worth RM100 million, to be certified under the Sustainable Infrastar by January 2021.

Asri said companies were reluctant to participate due to a myopic view that there would be an increase in costs when the element of environmental sustainability was incorporated into their projects.

"They can reap many benefits, including cutting down on the construction and operating costs if they include the elements at the design stage," he said, adding that the rating tool would look at overall element of sustainability such as the usage of sustainable products and recycling element.

Asri said to encourage more companies to participate in the rating programme, CIDB would bear the assessment costs of between RM8,000 and RM30,000, based on the scale of the project.

He said CIDB was looking into capacity building by training contractors and industry players.

"We will have roadshows and seminars to promote an awareness. We have the Construction Research Institute of Malaysia for research and development," he said.

To prepare for 2021, CIDB hopes to train 15 assessors and 30 facilitators under its Sustainable Construction Excellence Centre.

"At present we have eight assessors and 15 facilitators," he said.

Asri said CIDB wanted to avoid making the assessment a mandate as it was not the best way to create a culture.

"That's why we are focusing on strengthening the ecosystem through capacity building and technology until next year. We will see how it goes from there," he said.

He said Sustainable Infrastar covered the gap in addressing environmental concerns for the construction industry.

"There are tools such as the Malaysian Carbon Reduction and Environmental Sustainability Tool by CIDB for building construction and Malaysia Green Highway Index by Malaysian Highway Authority."

Asri said the Sustainable Infrastar covered infrastructure construction including highways and roads, train, water treatment plant, airport rail link, jetty and marina, sewerage pipe network, wastewater treatment plant and telecommunication networks.



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### SUMMARIES

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