

Headline	CIDB: Construction players need to stay up to date		
MediaTitle	The Star		
Date	24 Dec 2019	Color	Full Color
Section	StarBiz	Circulation	175,986
Page No	2	Readership	527,958
Language	English	ArticleSize	248 cm <sup>2</sup>
Journalist	N/A	AdValue	RM 12,529
Frequency	Daily	PR Value	RM 37,587



## CIDB: Construction players need to stay up to date

**KUALA LUMPUR:** Malaysian construction industry players have to keep up with the latest local and global trends, as well as developments to maintain their competitive edge moving forward.

Construction Industry Development Board (CIDB) Malaysia chief executive Datuk Ahmad Asri Abdul Hamid said the Malaysian construction industry has experienced a robust growth for the past 10 years, especially in terms of technology, construction methods and materials used.

"For example, Singapore is heavily focused on using IBS (industrialised building system). Malaysia's Sunway Construction has become the IBS expert in that country.

"The value and complexity of projects are also increasing.

"To compete in the international market, a company needs to grow at a greater scale to ensure that it has the resources, skills, and experience to perform. To put it simply, if the company is not big enough, it will not be able to compete," he told Bernama.

In recent years, he said there was less demand in the domestic market due to slower economic conditions, thus creating pressure for Malaysian industry players to seek business opportunities abroad to sustain their business.

Despite slower economic conditions, he said other factors that have affected the inter-



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nationalisation of construction companies include locality, of which 68% of the total projects won abroad were in the Commonwealth and Asean countries.

This, he said, is because the laws and regulations practised in these countries were very similar to Malaysia's.

Ahmad Asri said that CIDB has been making good progress on the Internationalisation front of the Construction Industry Transformation Programme with several construction companies finding success overseas.

This is in line with the government's aspiration to boost Malaysian construction players' position on the domestic front, as well as to gain prominence as global players on the international arena, he added.

"From 2016 until the first quarter of 2019, some 124 projects worth RM12.7bil had been won by Malaysian companies in many countries, including in the Asean, South Asian and Gulf regions.

"In fact, Malaysian companies have built landmarks in other countries such as the F1 circuits in Bahrain and Abu Dhabi by WCT Engineering, Doha International Airport by Gamuda Bhd and Hamad International Airport in Qatar by Muhibbah Engineering (M) Bhd, WCT Engineering, Eversendai Corporation Bhd and a few others," he said.

Ahmad Asri said CIDB's role is to facilitate the Malaysian construction industry players to undertake and execute projects and render services overseas.

To this end, he said CIDB has led delegations to explore opportunities overseas that will help enhance the export of Malaysia's construction services. — Bernama