

Gov't committed in creating green environment

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KUCHING: The government is committed in creating a sustainable and green environment for the future generations through collaborative efforts between the government and the private sector.

This was pointed out by Minister of Infrastructure Development and Communications Dato Sri Michael Manyin Jawong at the opening of Green Buildings and Parks World (GBPW) 2014 Conference at the Borneo Convention Centre Kuching (BCCK) here yesterday.

"Both the Federal and State governments are strongly committed to foster a culture of sustainable development through a number of initiatives. As of last September, Malaysia boasts of 100 million square feet of Green Building space," the Minister said.

Manyin added that the initiatives undertaken by the government included the formation of GreenTech Malaysia, the driver to accelerate the national economy and promote sustainable development; the Green Technology Financing Scheme to help the private sector especially the small and medium enterprises to make better use of the technologies that could save money and reduce carbon emission; tax exemption for the development of green technology; and formulation of action plan for improvement on green products certification and Green Building Index (GBI).

"In Sarawak, my ministry is setting clear directions to encourage and provide insights to the industry players on building environmentally efficient structures and sustainable communities.

"We will continue to support excellence in green building programmes and push the envelope to continually increase the design and construction of greener buildings in the state. We are committed to make it easier and faster for green innovative solutions to be adopted when we build and retrofit existing buildings," he assured.

He said the state's effort to promote and support the construction of green buildings could be seen in local buildings which are either GBI certified or at various stages of obtaining the GBI certification rating.

The buildings are Menara Sarawak Energy Berhad, the first green building in East Malaysia which received the silver rating since June, 2013; UCTS (University College of Technology Sarawak) Campus in Sibu is targeting for platinum rating; and the new Sarawak Museum is targeting for GBI certified rating.

“Some of the best practices in the region included adopting sustainable planning of new buildings with due consideration to the orientation of the building, day-lighting and natural ventilation; applying landscaping in buildings, provide green roofs and other green features including balconies, sky gardens, podium gardens wherever applicable; improve urban greenery and enhancing existing greened areas; incorporating renewable energy features including solar water heating or building integrated photovoltaic systems; practising total water management and install water-saving devices for sanitary appliances in buildings; and reducing construction wastes by using prefabricated and precast materials whenever applicable,” he pointed out.

He also explained that many developers and project owners in the country still failed to put into practice green and sustainable building features in a larger scale because of lack of action-able knowledge; shortage of financing or incentive encouragement; and higher cost of green building implementation. But other countries in the region had moved much more quickly in implementing the ‘Green Concept’.

Manyin commended the staging of the inaugural conference, jointly organised by Confexhub Group and The Institute of Parks and Recreation Singapore, which offered a useful platform for experts and practitioners around the region to meet, share experiences, discuss latest solutions and best practices to green the buildings dealing with the challenges posed by urbanisation and climate change.

“The construction of green buildings contributes to sustainable development. Having greener buildings reduce energy consumption and therefore contributes to global efforts to reduce carbon emissions which cause climate change.

“Green buildings also provide a better indoor environment that could contribute towards the well-being, health and productivity of their users. If they are designed and managed well, green buildings can therefore save money, increase comfort and also create healthier environment for our people to live and work in,” he said.

Meanwhile, chief executive officer of Confexhub Group, Paul Martin Yeo in his speech earlier said the organisers wanted to play a part in encouraging green building movement in the region to together make a difference.

He said the three-day GBPW 2014 Conference themed ‘Building for the Future’ sought to provide a platform for delegates to discover, learn and have a better idea on the concept of green building; support the growth of the green buildings and parks industry by delivering universal insights and strategies; provide an excellent opportunity for delegates to gain hands-on understanding on the latest methods and technologies for building and retrofitting greener buildings; set the scene to address current and future issues and

challenges; and to provide a platform for policy makers to exchange ideas, collaborate and formation of new policies.

“There would be six special focused sessions, two keynote speeches and three plenary addresses with comprehensive discussions on green buildings and parks covering topics on product certifications and standards; incentives and financing options; advanced green building technologies; innovative method and design for buildings; landscapes and buildings; and parks as green infrastructure,” Yeo said.

Also present at the opening ceremony yesterday were the Permanent Secretary to the Ministry of Infrastructure Development and Communications, Haji Safri Zainudin, Managing Director of Sarawak Convention Bureau, Mike Cannon, President of The Institute of Parks and Recreation Singapore, Maria Boey, other guests and conference participants.



Plenary Address 1 Speaker - Ar. Sarly Adre Sarkum



Keynote Address 2 Speaker - Ir. Lam Kim Seong



Mr. Paul Yeo Presents Token of Appreciation to Ar. Sarly



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Group Photograph of Plenary Session Speakers