

Speech by Ar Boon Che Wee (President, PAM & Chairman, Green Building Index)

On the occasion of the launch of Green Building Index Township Rating Tool on 29 March 2011.

As responsible members of the industry, we naturally believe that sustainability matters. Most importantly, we know that we, collectively, are empowered as an industry to drive for a built environment that is more responsible and sustainable.

So, it is most gratifying when our efforts gain highly visible advocates in the communities that we serve, and in the governments, and in this regard please join me to thank our honourable Minister of Housing and Local Government for taking time from his very hectic schedule to join us this afternoon to speak to us, and to officiate the launch of the latest rating tool by Green Building Index.

We have held the belief that as a developing nation, we can't afford holding back our progress but we can ensure that all our future development will be

responsible and sustainable, and to provide for our needs without compromising the ability of our future generation to provide for themselves.

It was on this premise that PAM, in collaboration with the Association of Consulting Engineers Malaysia (ACEM), and with support of the Building Industry Presidents Council, and the wider industry, had decided to formulate the Green Building Index.

With the industry and the public now well acquainted with Green Building Index, and with its recognition by our government and the world bodies as our national rating tool, the time is right now to introduce the Green Building Index Township Tool, to widen the green transformation to our neighbourhoods and communities.

Achieving the Green Building Index certification for a township not only demonstrates the green commitment of a responsible developer but also establishes an environmental legacy and sustainability caveat for all future buildings in the township to match and outperform the community's expectations.

By outlining measures that are both environmentally and economically achievable and sound, we are confident that the tool will also dispel any

misconceptions on the viability of sustainable development, and re-affirm our ability to provide for our needs with the most effective use of land and resources; without compromising the ability of future generations to provide for theirs.

As an enabling tool, the basic parameters set in place at the planning stage by the GBI Township Tool will pave the way for all new buildings in the township to achieve Green Building Index certification.

Given that township development is also the forte of our industry, and as no other country in this region or perhaps even in the world that had developed more successful townships of various characters and sizes at our speed, it is our wish that the industry will also be able to leverage on this township tool as our latest credential in expanding our successes to other countries, especially locations that share the same climatic conditions, and development priorities, as ours.

After all, as one of the pioneer rating tool for township development, and the first for the tropical belt, the Green Building Index Township Tool had caught the attention, and created a buzz in the green and sustainable development fraternity globally.

The development of all Green Building Index rating tools is by process inclusive, and the launch of this township tools marks the culmination of almost two years of public, industry and governmental consultation that has also involved our international peers and experts, and I would especially invite you to join me to acknowledge four local authorities who have not only hosted the Green Building Index team but also involved their key decision makers in a series of collaborative workshops on the development of this township tools, and they are Dewan Bandaraya Kuala Lumpur, Majlis Perbandaran Hang Tuah Jaya Melaka, Majlis Bandaraya Petaling Jaya, and Perbandanan Putrajaya.

The launch of the GBI Township Tool at the threshold of a new decade is indeed a timely reminder for us to balance our national development agenda with our global environmental commitment as we strive towards developed nation status by 2020.

On this note, I'd like to again acknowledge the passionate and committed volunteers of the Green Building Index team for their continued and tireless efforts, as the launch of the township tool today marks the first of a series of new tools that we will be launching, at the rate of possibly one every month, from now until the second half of the year.

On behalf of the Green Building Index, I'd like to convey our greatest appreciation to you, members of the industry who have encouraged us, supported us, and provided critical feedback to us, and again extend our invitation to you to join us in the review of our existing tools, and in the formulation of new tools for the industry.

Most importantly, we are extremely grateful to our Guest of Honour Yang Berhormat Minister of Housing and Local Government for taking time to listen to us, guide us and today, speak to us.

Thank you Dato' Wira, we look forward to your keynote speech, and I am confident that we will all have an informative and productive afternoon.

Thank you.