

GBI to launch more tools

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KUALA LUMPUR: More Green Building Index (GBI) rating tools are set for launch this year including the Industrial Rating Tool, the Data Center Rating Tool, the Mall Rating Tool, the Hotel Rating Tool and the Public Health Rating Tool with at least one rating tool to be launched a month.

“We’re hoping to launch the industrial rating tool next. We’re working together with the FMM (Federation of Malaysian Manufacturers) on this to decide on the criteria for green certified facilities. We hope to launch by late next month,” GBI chairman, Ar. Boon Chee Wee told theedgeproperty.com on the sidelines after the launch of the GBI Township Rating Tool by Housing and Local Government Minister Datuk Wira Chor Chee Heung on Tuesday March 29.

The launch of the Mall Rating Tool or the Hotel Rating Tool will follow in May, he said. Besides the Township Tool launched today, the three existing GBI rating tools are: Non-Residential New Construction, Residential New Construction and Non-Residential Existing Building, which provide opportunities for developers and building owners to design and construct green, sustainable buildings.

On the latest GBI Township Tool, Boon said there are six core categories to be considered under the Township Tool – climate, energy and water, ecology and environment, community planning and design, transportation and connectivity, building and resources as well as business and innovation.

The five township pilot projects registered under the GBI Township Tool are TTDI Alam Impian, Broga Valley, Ken Rimba, Elmina East in Selangor and Karambunai Integrated Resort City in Sabah.

“Given that township development is also the forte of our industry, and as no other country in this region or perhaps even the world has developed more successful townships of various character 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,” said Boon in his speech earlier.

Since GBI was incepted in May 2009, it has received over 160 applications for registration, 38% of which are new residential buildings, 60% are new non-residential buildings and 2% existing are non-residential buildings.

Existing properties that are certified were Kuala Lumpur’s Gtower, Menara Binjai and Menara Felda, and Penang’s The Light Linear and The Light Point.

A few other properties such as DiGi Technology Operation Centre and the Sime Darby Idea House, both in Shah Alam were certified Gold GBI while the Bangunan Suruhanjaya Tenaga in Putrajaya was certified platinum. For existing building, Bangunan Perdana was certified gold.

GBI has also launched the Residential New Construction version 2 that was undertaken over a 6 months period with feedback from the property industry stakeholders. The revision comprises minor upgrades for more GBI points such as the use of sustainable timber.