

GBI launches new industrial rating tools

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The Green Building Index (GBI) has introduced two additional rating tools for industrial buildings — The Industrial New Construction Tool and the Industrial Existing Building Tool.

The new industrial rating tool was developed to focus on the expansion of Malaysia's industrial sector, while the existing industrial buildings tool was designed to encourage them to be fitted with green technologies and have facilities in place for future needs.



“Just as it had driven Malaysia's development as we progressed from an economy dependent on primary commodities to one that is manufacturing and export based, the industrial sector has also been fuelling our energy demand, consuming over 40 percent of our energy resources, and almost 50 percent of our national electricity output,” said Pertubuhan Akitek Malaysia (PAM) President and Chairman of GBI Accreditation Panel Boon Che Wee.

In association with the Federation of Malaysian Manufacturers (FMM), the tools are structured on six GBI criteria, which include the indoor environmental quality (IEQ), energy efficiency (EE), material and resources, sustainable site planning and management, innovation and water efficiency.

IEQ and EE are emphasised to improve energy efficiency, as industrial building commonly practise year-round operations, he said.

Mr. Boon added that it will promote productivity and improve working conditions for the hundreds or thousands of workers under one roof.

“We believe this is also our opportunity to leap frog and differentiate our manufacturing sector and spur our global positioning and competitiveness.”

Since the GBI's launch two years ago, it has received 179 applications, of which 35 percent are for new residential buildings, 59 percent for existing residential buildings, four percent for townships and two percent for non-residential buildings.

It is currently working on rating tools for shopping malls, hotels and healthcare facilities, which are all expected to be introduced this year.

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