PRESS RELEASE

ELEMENTS OF ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY CAN ENHANCE THE EFFICIENCY OF THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY

PUTRAJAYA, AUGUST 23, 2021 – Malaysia Board of Technologists (MBOT) will support the efforts to uphold the technologists and technicians in the construction industry especially for building inspection and maintenance works.

Building inspections are periodically enforced under Section 85A of Act 133 (Periodical Inspection in accordance with Section 85A of the Street, Drainage and Building Act 1974). It states the need to carry out periodic inspections of buildings, with a height of more than five floors, at least once every 10 years. The inspections are carried out with the aim of conducting scheduled prevention on deterioration levels to ensure the safety of buildings, residents and the public.

The management of facilities in building maintenance was developed and practiced over 30 years ago in the United States (US) and United Kingdom (UK) followed by several Asian countries such as Japan, Hong Kong and Singapore. In the UK, building inspection practices are given serious emphasis and carried out more stringently after buildings are completed and while they are in operation.

The inspection and maintenance of the building is an important aspect and must be carried out in a comprehensive and detailed manner to ensure that the design process of a building meets the existing legal standards and the maintenance process can be monitored from time to time.

If this aspect is overlooked, various risks will occur such as the impact of safety, economy and declining quality of work in the construction industry. Therefore, among the measures that need to be taken, to address these risks is to create more quality manpower to carry out these tasks.

In Malaysia, one of the worst collapse tragedy was Highland Towers which occurred in 1993 where a 12-storey building block collapsed after 15 years of construction. Recently, in June 2021, a 12-storey condominium collapse occurred in Miami, Florida, USA due to a major error in the original design structure of the building. The failure of the developer to provide a good drainage system was also the cause of this tragedy.

In addition, climate change can also cause challenges especially to old infrastructure. The incident may occur due to major structural damage caused by prolonged heavy rainfall, floods and storms that destroy the hill ecosystem and consequently result in the movement of buildings, concrete walls and landslides. Building structures that are not strong enough to support the load may cause damage.

The Government must identify the actions needed to be done with the relevant parties in order to enforce policies to be carried out effectively related to building inspections. In addition, Government agencies and institutions are encouraged to take an approach in developing more building inspectors to meet the standards of the development and management of national facilities.

To realise this, advanced technological elements must also be applied to ensure that buildings are always in a safe condition. By combining this advanced technology, it will also add values in the maintenance and conservation of a building. Among the technologies used are the Internet of Things (IoT), Big Data Analytics (BDA) and additive materials. By combining the application of these advanced technologies, more economic potential will be explored, resulting from the process chain involved.

About Malaysia Board of Technologists (MBOT)

The Malaysia Board of Technologists (MBOT) is a Statutory Body under MOSTI, incorporated under the Technologists and Technicians Act 2015 (Act 768). The primary role of MBOT is to confer recognition on Technologists and Technicians as professionals. MBOT functions as a professional body that helps expand the profession based on technology and technical.

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