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ICW-CONSTRUCTION
PROVIDE FEEDBACK TO CIDB, LOCAL BUILDERS TOLD

KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 10, (Bernama) -- Feedback from industry players is important if the Malaysian construction industry is to move forward, says Datuk Haji Abdul Rahman Abdullah, Chief Executive of the Construction Industry Development Board (CIDB).

He hoped that Malaysian builders would be able to visit the International Construction Week exposition at the MINES Exhibition Centre near here to provide feedback and discuss issues confronting the industry with CIDB.

"In tandem with its mission to develop the Malaysian construction industry towards global competitiveness, CIDB is taking a leading role to push the industry further," he said at the opening of ICW 2002.

They include the Malaysia Skills Competition, an idea mooted by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

Under the competition, CIDB will strive to promote skills excellence to enhance the quality of construction workmanship, productivity and efficiency.

On Friday, CIDB will present awards to 10 excellent builders in the country.

Meanwhile, Deputy Works Minister Datuk Haji Mohamed Khaled Nordin has asked construction industry players to give ample emphasis on Research & Development (R&D) to enable them explore and adopt new methods and technologies.

This would further help increase productivity and reduce dependency on foreign workers, he told a press conference held after the official launch of ICW2002.

Mohamed Khaled said industry players should invest in R&D as such activities would positively contribute to shifting of their industry towards innovation and creativity.

"To increase productivity, it is vital for us to adopt a more intergrated approach to construction to speed up the overall construction process, such as, through the reduction of fragmentation," he said.

Mohamed Khaled said CIDB has allocated RM3 million in sponsorship for R&D projects to be carried out by three local universities.

CIDB had signed Memoranda of Understanding (MOU) with Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM), Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM), and Universiti Teknologi Mara (IUTM).

"These universities will carry out research in the fields that have been allocated to them within three to five years," he added. -- BERNAMA

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