

Human capital development will curb need for foreign labour, says Najib
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Enhancing human capital development is one of the initiatives outlined under the Construction Industry Transformation Plan (CITP) to reduce dependence on foreign labour, Datuk Seri Najib Razak said.

The prime minister said the proposed measures included streamlining construction-related courses, creating a training map to chart progress towards a skill trade, conducting curricula reviews, and ensuring up-to-date industry training content.

"A specialist apprenticeship programme would be initiated," he said at the launch of the five-day International Construction Week (ICW) 2015 themed Building A Greener Future, in Kuala Lumpur today.

Najib, who is also finance minister, said the programme would be a collaboration between the governing body and industry players.

It will serve as a platform for graduates from Akademi Binaan Malaysia, technical and vocational education training institutes to be hired as apprentices by industry players undertaking large projects.

One of the CITP's initiatives is the introduction of a more stringent requirement to significantly reduce accidents and fatalities in the construction industry, he added.

"This will ensure that all contractors bidding for a particular project to estimate the costs to meet the safety and health requirement," he said.

As part of the CITP's thrusts, he said a Centre of Excellence (CoE) for Sustainable Construction would be established to promote and implement sustainable construction systems and practices.

Najib said the centre was part of the government's targets to showcase the Malaysian construction industry as a low carbon, sustainable building and infrastructure model, especially to Asean countries.

The CITP is also aimed at inducing faster adoption of Industrialised Building System (IBS), mechanisation and modern practices, he added.

"This, together with the use of other technologies already available, as well as, with a healthy dose of innovation, will place Malaysia's construction industry in good stead to achieve continuous growth while providing a good foundation for Malaysia's construction players to expand internationally," he said.

The prime minister expects the construction industry to continue to grow in the 11th

Malaysia Plan as it recorded RM102 billion worth of projects in 2011 and grew incrementally to RM157 billion in 2014.

He said the CITP, formed as part of the 11th Malaysia Plan, was aimed at creating construction industry players that were sustainable at home and able to compete in the international arena.

The CITP is a comprehensive implementation plan, encompassing 18 initiatives from four strategic thrusts, namely quality, safety and professionalism; environment sustainability; productivity; and internalisation.

"Each of the four strategic thrusts seeks to transform and improve the public and international image of the industry," he said.

Present were Works Minister Datuk Seri Fadillah Yusof, his deputy, Datuk Rosnah Abdul Rashid Shirlin, and Construction Industry Development Board chief executive Datuk Seri Judin Abdul Karim. – Bernama, September 10, 2015.

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