

CIDB's RM2.5m MyBIM centre expected to start operations in May

BY AHMAD NAQIB IDRIS

KUALA LUMPUR: The Construction Industry Development Board (CIDB) expects its RM2.5-million MyBIM Centre to start operations in May this year.

CIDB chief executive Datuk Ahmad Asri Abdul Hamid said the centre will play a major role in transforming the industry by pushing for the adoption of building information modelling (BIM) systems.

BIM systems provide a platform to digitally create and model construction projects, giving the stakeholders a clearer representation of the particular project to be embarked on.

"The primary function of this centre is to act as a centre of reference for BIM, so if a company would like to get more information on BIM, it can refer to the centre.

"Secondly, the MyBIM Centre will also be a training centre, as we will provide facilities to conduct training for developers, contractors, consultants and suppliers on BIM," Ahmad Asri told a media briefing yesterday.

Additionally, the MyBIM Centre will also provide access to BIM software and hardware on a pay-per-use basis for companies that find it costly to make their own BIM investment.

Ahmad Asri said the BIM software costs about RM9,000 per annum on average, while a basic hardware set-up to cater for the software costs about RM50,000. A company would also have to spend on training its staff to use the software.

The cost factor is said to be the major hurdle for the uptake of BIM in the Malaysian construction industry, he said, adding that a lack of awareness on BIM and companies' low emphasis on planning have also resulted in low adoption of BIM.

He pointed out that there are many companies that are interested in BIM, including UEM Sunrise Bhd, Gamuda Bhd and IJM Corp Bhd. Meanwhile, others have also been using BIM in their projects, including the works ministry, Brunsfield and the Sunway Group.

The use of BIM reduces wastage of construction materials, saves cost in the event that a rework of a proposed building is needed, and reduces the time needed to complete a project.

Ahmad Asri said the use of technologies like BIM and industrialised building systems (IBS) will also eventually reduce the need for foreign labour in the construction industry.

He said the use of BIM encourages the use of IBS components in construction, which means that a significant portion of work will be transferred to the factories — to manufacture the standardised IBS components — rather than done on-site.