



13 MAY, 2024

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New Straits Times, Malaysia



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CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY

'Malaysia can lead the way in fostering a green revolution'

KUALA LUMPUR: There is increased awareness of sustainability in Malaysia, but the cost of implementing sustainable practices is one of the main obstacles, according to Kone Malaysia managing director Teoh Tze Ping.

The initial costs for sustainable materials, technologies and design strategies may be higher but they lead to long-term savings through reduced energy consumption and operational costs, he said.

Teoh said Malaysia has the opportunity to lead the way in fostering a green revolution within the construction industry, starting with a pledge of commitment to sustainability and setting sustainability goals.

He said industry players need to define specific sustainability objectives for construction projects, such as reducing energy consumption, minimising waste generation and enhancing indoor air quality.

"Establishing clear goals provides direction and ensures that sustainability remains a priority

throughout the project lifecycle."

A global report by the United Nations indicates that buildings and construction are accountable for 37 per cent of global greenhouse gas emissions.

In Malaysia, the sector generates about eight million tonnes of waste annually, according to a 2021 research on environmental management practices.

Teoh said these alarming figures necessitate an immediate shift towards sustainable building practices.

"With readily available solutions and innovative technology, the construction sector can minimise environmental impact without compromising construction timelines."

Teoh said another approach to incorporating sustainability considerations into project planning and design stages involves conducting feasibility studies, environmental assessments, and lifecycle analyses.

He said this identifies opportunities for incorporating green build-



Teoh Tze Ping

ing practices and technologies from the outset.

"Collaborating with green-certified players who are advancing sustainability in the construction industry is essential.

"Construction players can also

pursue green building certification from organisations such as the US Green Building Council. For example, Merdeka 118 is the country's first mega-tall building to achieve LEED Platinum certification."

Teoh said sustainable construction is also an economic opportunity.

Investing in green technologies, renewable energy and energy-efficient building practices can spur innovation, create jobs and drive economic growth, he added.

He said it fosters a vibrant ecosystem of green businesses and industries, positioning countries like Malaysia at the forefront of the global green economy.

"As we forge ahead, there is boundless potential for a brighter and greener future, not only for Malaysia but also for the entire world.

"By embracing sustainable construction practices, we can build a legacy of stewardship, resilience and prosperity for generations to come," he said.