MINISTRY OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND
ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

OFFICIATING SPEECH

YB TUAN SYED IBRAHIM BIN SYED NOH

DEPUTY MINISTER OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

FOR

LAUNCH OF THE GBI NON-RESIDENTIAL

NEW CONSTRUCTION TOOL VERSION 2.0

NOVEL 1, LEVEL 1, MALAYSIA INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND EXHIBITION CENTRE (MITEC)
29 JULY 2026 (WEDNESDAY) | 1.30 PM

PLEASE CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Bismillahirrahmanirrahim.

Assalamualaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh, Salam Sejahtera and Salam Malaysia MADANI.

1. **Distinguished Mr. Ar. Dexter Koh Yew Peng**,
   President of Pertubuhan Akitek Malaysia, PAM;

2. **Distinguished Mr. Ir. Anuar Mohd Aris**,
   President of the Association of Consulting Engineers Malaysia, ACEM;

3. **Distinguished Mr. Ar. Sarly Adre Sarkum**,
   Chief Executive Officer of Green Building Index;

4. **Members of the Board of Directors of Greenbuildingindex Sdn Bhd;**

5. **Members of the GBI Accreditation Panel;**

6. **Distinguished developers, architects, engineers, planners, sustainability professionals, members of the industry;**

7. **Ladies and Gentlemen**

INTRODUCTION

1. First of all, I would like to express my sincere appreciation for the invitation to be here today. It is both an honour and a pleasure to join you this afternoon for the official launch of the Green Building Index Non-Residential New Construction Tool Version 2.0, or GBI NRNC Version 2.0.

2. Every so often, an industry chooses to raise its own bar. Today is one of those moments, and I congratulate the Green Building Index (GBI), Malaysian Institute of Architects (PAM), Association of Consulting Engineers Malaysia (ACEM), the GBI Accreditation Panel, the technical committees and every professional whose expertise has brought us here.

3. This launch is more than the introduction of an updated assessment tool. It is a declaration that Malaysia's professions and private sector can turn our national climate aspirations into real, measurable action, one building at a time.

Ladies and gentlemen,

4. Since 2009, when PAM and ACEM came together to establish it, GBI has grown into Malaysia's industry-recognised green building rating system, created for our tropical climate and our own national context. That local relevance remains one of its greatest strengths.

5. Consider what has been achieved. As of June 2026, GBI has recorded 1,436 project applications and 804 certified projects across residential, commercial, industrial, interior and township categories.

6. Together, GBI-rated buildings represent approximately 31.9 million square metres, or 342.8 million square feet, of certified floor area. By the end of this year, that figure is expected to exceed 350 million square feet.

7. More significantly, these projects collectively deliver a projected reduction of more than two million tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent every single year, from electricity savings alone.

8. These are not merely certificates on a wall. They are proof that the physical performance of Malaysia's built environment is being transformed.

9. Every efficient chiller, every better-performing façade, every responsibly selected site, every water-efficient fitting, every well-managed building, these quiet decisions, multiplied across hundreds of projects, are steadily reducing our nation's energy demand and environmental footprint.

10. This is precisely the transformation that the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Sustainability champions. As the Ministry responsible for advancing environmental sustainability, climate action and responsible management of natural resources, NRES plays a strategic role in shaping policies and frameworks that support Malaysia's transition towards a low-carbon, climate-resilient and sustainable future.

11. This includes strengthening climate mitigation and adaptation efforts, promoting green growth, enhancing environmental governance and supporting sustainable development across all sectors. In this regard, the transformation of Malaysia's built environment is a critical component of the national sustainability agenda, and initiatives such as GBI serve as an important industry-driven mechanism to translate national policies and climate commitments into measurable action on the ground.

12. For me, sustainability becomes meaningful when people can see where they fit into it. Climate targets may be national, but the actions that get us there happen in very ordinary places in our homes, our offices, our schools, and the buildings we enter every day. That is why initiatives such as GBI matter. They bring something that can sometimes feel distant or technical much closer to our daily lives. They show us that climate action is not only about what governments commit to, but also about the choices we make in how we design, build, operate and use the spaces around us.

13. Under the NRES Strategic Plan 2024-2030, we are committed to advancing environmental protection, climate action, green growth and sustainable lifestyles, to building low-carbon cities, and to honouring Malaysia’s greenhouse-gas commitments under the Paris Agreement.

14. Malaysia’s latest Nationally Determined Contribution, NDC 3.0, raises our ambition further. We intend to peak national greenhouse-gas emissions by 2030, and to achieve an absolute reduction of between 15 and 30 million tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent by 2035.

15. No single sector can deliver this alone, but the building sector must be at the heart of it. Buildings are long-term assets. The choices we draw on paper today will shape energy use, carbon emissions and public health for decades to come. That is why GBI NRNC Version 2.0 is so timely, and so strategically important. It makes three bold advances.

16. First, it raises the floor. Where Version 1 had a single prerequisite, Version 2.0 establishes seven mandatory prerequisites. These requirements set a stronger minimum performance foundation before any project may qualify for GBI certification.

17. They include minimum energy performance and an advanced Building Energy Intensity requirement of not more than 180 kilowatt-hours per square metre per year. They also require sustainable maintenance facilities, environmental tobacco smoke control, responsible site selection, proper storage and collection of recyclables, and water-efficient fittings.

18. This is a shift in philosophy. Green certification should not merely celebrate exceptional features; it must guarantee sound fundamentals.

19. A building deserves to be called sustainable not because of a few visible green features, but because its energy, water, environmental and operational systems truly perform. Second, Version 2.0 moves us from design intention to living performance.

20. Continuous Energy Management recognises that efficiency does not end on the day a certificate is issued. Performance must be measured, reviewed and improved throughout a building's operational life.

21. This mirrors Malaysia's regulatory direction under the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Act 2024, which came into force on 1 January 2025, which strengthens obligations on building energy intensity, energy audits and energy management.

22. In the same spirit, Continuous Indoor Air Quality Monitoring ensures that a healthy building protects its occupants every day, not only on the day of assessment.

23. Third, Version 2.0 widens the very meaning of sustainability. Integrated Daylighting Design, Reduced Flickering and Resilient Indoor Air Quality place human health, comfort and well-being at the centre of building design.

24. Electric Vehicle Infrastructure prepares our developments for Malaysia’s transition to cleaner mobility. The Reduction of Upfront Carbon confronts the emissions embedded in construction materials and processes, not only the energy consumed once a building is operational.

25. And Resilient Clean Water Supply reminds us that sustainability must include resilience, preparing our buildings for the climate pressures and resource disruptions of tomorrow.

26. The National Energy Transition Roadmap names energy efficiency as one of Malaysia’s six energy-transition levers, because the cleanest kilowatt-hour is the one we never need to generate.

27. Taken together, these enhancements chart a clear and inspiring evolution:
    - From efficiency to decarbonisation.
    - From design compliance to continuous management.
    - From individual green features to integrated building performance. And from sustainability under normal conditions to resilience under future conditions.

Ladies and gentlemen,

28. Sustainability should not feel like a conversation that belongs only to policymakers, engineers or environmental professionals. It belongs to all of us, because ultimately, we are all users of the environment we are trying to protect.

29. And the built environment is perhaps one of the clearest places where that responsibility becomes tangible. Every building we design today is a choice about how much energy and water we consume, how we use our resources, and what kind of environment we leave behind.

30. GBI NRNC Version 2.0 places a practical instrument for that transition directly in the hands of our development and professional community.

31. And this is the true value of GBI to the nation. When the Government sets direction through the National Energy Transition Roadmap, the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Act and our NDC commitments, it is instruments like GBI that carry that direction into every drawing office, every site meeting and every boardroom. GBI translates policy into practice, and it enables progress to be measured through tangible, measurable outcomes.

32. That is a partnership of the highest value. I believe this is where policy matters most not when it remains in a document, but when it begins to change the way we design, build and live. Our ambition should be to make sustainability not an added feature, but part of how Malaysia develops by default.

33. So let me give you this assurance. NRES is glad to support any measure that moves the sustainability needle forward. Whether it comes from our professional institutions, from industry or from civil society, if it delivers real reductions in emissions and real improvements in the quality of our built environment, it will find a willing partner in this Ministry.

34. But a tool, however well crafted, succeeds only through the people who use it. So this afternoon, I make four appeals. To our developers: adopt these standards not as a burden of compliance, but as an investment in asset value, operational savings, climate resilience and long-term competitiveness.

35. To our architects and engineers: let sustainability guide your hand from the very first sketch, at the earliest stages of planning and design. To our building owners and facility managers: treat commissioning, monitoring and continuous improvement as a permanent duty of care.

36. And to GBI: keep raising the bar. Keep strengthening your standards, building professional capability and improving access to performance data, so that your tools remain credible, rigorous and worthy of Malaysia's future. The buildings we design today will become the cities our children inherit tomorrow.

37. Let us make them energy-efficient, healthy, low-carbon and resilient. And let us prove, together, that economic progress and environmental responsibility are not opposing ambitions, but twin foundations of national prosperity.

38. With the recitation of Bismillahirrahmanirrahim, it is my honour and pleasure to officially launch the Green Building Index Non-Residential New Construction Tool Version 2.0.

39. Congratulations once again to Green Building Index, PAM, ACEM and everyone who has made this milestone possible.