





BY SHAWN NG

t is difficult to imagine how challenging it could be for building contractors in the country when they have to deal with payment delays or even non payments as well as other construction related disputes before the introduction of the Construction Industry Payment and Adjudication Act 2012 (CIPAA) and the Specialist Construction Court which came into force in 2014.

Thanks to the legislation and the establishment of the court, construction players today are able to avoid these protracted and costly legal battles as they can resolve disputes via a comprehensive and efficient judicial system while being protected by the Act.

But many may not know that these changes were the result of the tireless effort taken by those who saw the need to constantly push for systemic progress in the construction industry, one of whom is former chief executive of the Construction Industry Development Board Malaysia (CIDB) Dato' Sri Ir Dr Judin Abdul Karim.

The 64-year-old veteran took the helm of CIDB in August 2011 after leaving his position as director-general of the Public Works Department of Malaysia where he had spent about 33 years of his career.

He then stepped down as chief executive of CIDB in December 2015 and assumed the position of chairman at CIDB Holdings Sdn Bhd, a wholly-owned subsidiary of CIDB which serves as a platform for the latter to raise the quality of construction workforce training, skill assessment and programme enablers.

"During my term as the chief executive of CIDB, we were in the final stages to get the CIPAA approved and we managed to get it approved.

"This is a very fragmented and difficult industry where there are many issues about payment and litigation that inhibit its growth and result in projects being sick, delayed or abandoned," he says.

But CIDB soon realised that the Act too has its limitation as it only resolves issues with regards to payments during construction and does not include payments after completions, he explains.

"So we at CIDB met up with members of the judiciary, including the chief justice then and impressed on them that Malaysia needs to have a specialist court that focuses on the construction industry. The court was successfully set up later and created a huge impact on the industry. We were the second country in the world to have such a construction court, with the UK being the first," he elaborates.

#### 'Nothing can be achieved alone'

In acknowledgement of his contribution to the construction industry over the years, Judin has been accorded the Prominent Player Award, a premier award at the Malaysian Construction Industry Excellence Awards (MCIEA) 2019.

Introduced by CIDB in 2000, the MCIEA is a prestigious event to recognise industry players — both individuals and organisations for their contribution and outstanding performance in the industry. It also serves as a platform for healthy competition among industry players in the industry's quest for excellence by showcasing best practices in project implementation.

"Receiving the award is a humbling honour. I didn't expect it but I'm very grateful and thankful," he says, adding that the award is attributed to the teams that he had worked with and his family who has been lending him their utmost support all this time.

"Nothing can be achieved alone, you need people around you to support and help you, so that you can achieve [your goals]. Actually, whatever that I have achieved is not because of me — it is also due to the contribution of the people around me. Maybe they are not seen but they are equally great in their contribution and maybe more than mine. And maybe I was just lucky to be older and in the leadership role," he adds.

Judin, who currently serves as the executive vice–president of infrastructure and concession of Malaysian Resources Corp Bhd (MRCB) also aspires to push for the industry's adoption of the modular building system, which can drive the industry towards a more sustainable future.

MRCB he says, has introduced the MRCB Building System (MBS) earlier this year with the aim of shaping

# Pushing for change towards a sustainable construction industry





a more sustainable future for the industry. The modular construction technology prefabricates building modules and assembles the finished modules in a factory before delivering them to the project site for installation.

"Through this system, up to 95% of the building works can be done in a factory, where better quality assurance and quality control can be achieved through the controlled environment. This is also expected to create job opportunities for locals and thus reduce the industry's dependency on foreign labour," he said.

Furthermore, the modular building system sector offers a huge potential for Malaysia to become an exporter of building modules that are produced locally to other countries, such as Singapore, Australia, Hong Kong and the UK to cater to the housing demand around the globe.

"The construction industry itself is a little bit behind in the adoption of new technology due to many reasons. But if we look at the bigger picture, this is now a global industry and competition is real. So if you continue to stay where you are, then you will become a dinosaur soon.

"If we can get the entire industry to do this, we can become a cluster of greatness and together, we can succeed as a whole. We really need to bite the bullet and move forward to build a sustainable future for the industry," he concludes.

### Inspiring more women to be leaders



Dato' Hashimah Hashim

**Executive Director of KLCC Projeks Sdn Bhd** 

BY TAN AI LENG

n a male-dominated industry, KLCC Projeks Sdn Bhd executive director Dato' Hashimah Hashim finds herself playing a key role in inspiring more women to be future leaders.

According to her, KLCC Projeks currently has about 35% female executives and an equal percentage are in the managerial capacity.

"This is quite a large percentage

when you compare against the 15% global average of women in the construction industry.

"I find that having a significant women presence in the organisation offers diversity in terms of ideas, problem solving, approaches and methodologies which by the end of the day, provides better results and productivity," she tells EdgeProp.my.

Hashimah who was bestowed the title of Construction Leading Lady at





### A passion for clean water

BY TAN AI LENG

CNED Water Technology Sdn Bhd is one of the few waste water treatment solutions providers in Malaysia and its managing director Dennis Tan loves his job simply because he and his company can contribute to human kind, the community and

to planet Earth.

"We borrow the water from the earth, we clean the waste water and return it to nature for the future usage. If no one appreciates the water resources we have and do not care about waste water treatment, we won't have the clean water that we consume everyday," he tells EdgeProp.my.

With close to 35 years of experience in waste water treatment, the 60-year-old founder of OCNED Water Technology was named CEO of the Year at the Malaysian Construction Industry Excellence Awards (MCIEA) 2019 organised by the Construction Industry Development Board Malaysia (CIDB).

"We borrow the water from the earth, we clean the waste water and return it to where it comes from." — Tan

Tan established OCNED in 1993 and its current office in Shah Alam, Selangor has a staff size of around 50 people.

Besides taking on waste water treatment plant and sewerage plant design-and-build contracts from the private and public sectors locally, OCNED also has exposure in Cambodia and Laos, and will soon expand its footprint to Myanmar and India.

Tan says he felt a sense of joy and gratefulness when he received the news that the company has won an award from CIDB at the MCIEA as he considers it a recognition of the infrastructure company's work which is mainly carried out behind the scenes to ensure the functionality of a housing or real estate development.

"No matter what building is, a toilet is an essential element in the design and the development will need a system to treat its domestic waste water.

"Waste water treatment is also important for industrial plants, as manufacturers or factories should not just discharge the polluted water directly into



#### **Dennis Tan**

**Founder of OCNED Water Technology** 

rivers without treating it," stresses Tan who hails from Melaka.

A few decades back, Tan recalls, property developers would not consider spending extra on good waste water treatment systems and solutions as building an oxidation pond is cheaper.

However, as land becomes scarce and considering the effects of the pollution caused by oxidation ponds on the living environment, having a proper waste water treatment solution and mechanism has become an essential part of any property development.

Tan notes that in most developed countries, buildings are equipped with dual piping systems that separate potable water from reclaimed water for toilet flushing and tower cooling.

In Malaysia, the adoption of dual piping systems is still at the beginning stage. Currently, the Exchange 106 at Tun Razak Exchange, Kuala Lumpur, has engaged OCNED to provide this system.

OCNED is also working closely with its partner companies in Japan and Denmark to continue learning and upgrading itself with state-of-the-art technology in waste water treatment.

Different types of waste water require different solutions. For instance, domestic or household waste water could be treated by using microorganisms, while industrial waste water needs water treatment chemicals to disinfect, sanitise and purify the water, offers Tan.

As the country moves towards becoming a developed nation, urbanisation and industrial development will affect our living environment leading to the demand for more sophisticated waste water treatment solutions

Besides the use of proper waste water treatment systems to conserve our environment, Tan also sees an urgent need for every stakeholder to work together to reduce water wastage.





the Malaysian Construction Industry Excellence Awards (MCIEA) 2019 organised by the Construction Industry Development Board Malaysia (CIDB), began her career as an engineer in a consulting office in London.

Being in a male dominated field, she has had to strive against prejudices towards Asians and to women. "Although Englishmen are very polite, I was battling the unconscious bias of gender and being an Asian. Thus, I had to work really hard to be on top of the projects better than anyone else to gain the trust of my colleagues, my superiors and my clients," she says.

She had to face constant challenges at work but "that's what we are paid for", says Hashimah, adding that one must be confident and trust one's instincts to embrace challenges.

As an engineer, being technically competent is a given, but there should also be a focus on professional relationship management to deal with the various stakeholders

in a male-dominated industry, she offers.

She thanked CIDB for the MCIEA award, which she considers a testimony of her commitment, dedication and hard work that she had put in all these years. Hashimah hopes that the award will set a new benchmark for her female colleagues and the company as a whole.

"Having a significant women presence in the organisation offers diversity in terms of ideas, problem solving, approaches and methodologies" — Hashimah

"I would like to thank my superior, my peers, and colleagues in the Petronas and KLCC fraternity for their continuous support and belief in me," she says.

In helping women to excel in their careers, Hashimah notes that the company has provided several platforms through hands-on projects, strategic workshops, knowledge sharing forums and conferences, focus group engagements, mentoring sessions as well as sending senior managers to leadership programmes.

"Petronas and the KLCC Group of Companies embrace a set of cultural beliefs and this is supported by our shared values of being innovative, cohesive, loyal, embracing integrity and professionalism. These are the characteristics that shape a successful female leader," she adds.

Despite her busy work schedule, Hashimah has never felt tired of her work as she enjoys the satisfaction of seeing the successful completion of a project from its very beginning and after having gone through challenges and sleepless nights during the design and construction stages.

"All the hard work pays off when my team and I finally see the building standing tall, and seeing my project teams beaming with pride, is a rewarding and motivating experience for me," says Hashimah.





## The recipients

#### **Premier Awards**

Prominent Player	<b>Dato' Sri Ir. Dr. Judin Abdul Karim</b> Executive Vice President Special Projects  Malaysian Resources Corporation Berhad (MRCB)
Construction Leading Lady	<b>Dato' Hashimah binti Hashim</b> <i>Executive Director</i> KLCC Projeks Sdn Bhd
CEO of the Year	Mr. Dennis Tan Soo Huang  Managing Director  OCNED Water Technology Sdn Bhd
Contractor of the Year	Sunway Construction Sdn Bhd

#### The Best Project Awards (Major Category)

Major Category – Infrastructure

Projek Mass Rapid Transit Lembah Kelang: Jajaran Sungai Buloh–Kajang, Package DPT1: Construction and Completion of Sungai Buloh Maintenance Depot, Administration Building, External Works and other Associated Works

Client: Mass Rapid Transit Corporation Sdn Bhd
Contractor: Trans Resources Corporation Sdn Bhd
Architect: Perunding Alam Bina Sdn Bhd

C&S: MMC Gamuda KVMRT (PDP SSP) Sdn Bhd

M&E: Aecom Perunding Sdn Bhd
QS: KPK Quantity Surveyors (Semenanjung)

Major Category – Building

**Special Mention** 

Equatorial Hotel Plaza di Lot 1217, Seksyen 57, Jalan Sultan Ismail, Kuala Lumpur

Client: Hotel Equatorial (M) Sdn Bhd &

Fenghuang Development Sdn Bhd

Contractor: IJM Construction Sdn Bhd
Architect: GDP Architects Sdn Bhd

C&S: WEB Structures (M) Sdn Bhd

M&E: NDY (M) Sdn Bhd

QS: Jurukur Bahan FPS Sdn Bhd Landscape: BEP Landscape Sdn Bhd

#### The Best Project — International Achievement Award, SME Category

International Achievement Award -SME Category - (1 Special Mention)	Kim Hin Ceramic (Seremban) Sdn Bhd
International Achievement Award – SME Category – (1	Probase Manufacturing Sdn Bhd

#### The Best Project — Medium Category

Medium Project - Infrastructure Category	Client:	TNB Manjung ACE Sdn Bhd Technofit Sdn Bhd
Medium Project – Building Category	Client: Contractor: Architect: C&S: M&E:	Perpustakaan Negeri Sabah Anjur Jasa Sdn Bhd Innotech Design Architect Sdn Bhd Jurutera Perunding Kinakota Sdn Bhd Sistem Konsult Sdn Bhd
	QS:	Perunding KK Bina Sdn Bhd

#### The Best Project — Small Category

Small Project –	Sewage Treatment Plant With A Capacity
nfrastructure	of 19,950 PE, Johor Bahru
Category	

Client: Casa Andaman Sdn Bhd

**Contractor:** Alam Sekitar Eco-Technology Sdn Bhd

Architect: Zone Architect Sdn Bhd

C&S: Perunding MOBD Sdn Bhd

M&E: Perunding OS Sdn Bhd

QS: LOH QS Consult

Small Project – Building Category

#### Small & Medium Enterprise (SME) and Handicraft Centre Mersing, Johor

**Client:** East Coast Economic Region

Development Council

Contractor: Pembinaan Saji Jaya Sdn Bhd

PMC: KLCC Projeks Sdn Bhd

Architect: Pakatan Akitek Sdn Bhd

C&S: Perunding Ikatan Sdn Bhd

M&E: Jurutera Perunding JBI (M&E) Sdn Bhd
QS: Adam QS Consultancy Sdn Bhd

**Landscape:** Landarc Associates Sdn Bhd

#### The Best Contractor Awards (Grade G4–G6)

Grade G6	Yuan Seng Building Trading Sdn Bhd
Grade G5	Mamidor Reka Bina Sdn Bhd
Grade G4	MMA Tech Engineering Sdn Bhd

#### The Best Contractor Awards (Grade G1-G3)

Grade G1	Rosden Enterprise
Grade G2	Azman Mahmud Enterprise Sdn Bhd
Grade G3	IM Engineering