



BERITA QS

For Internal Circulation Only

Session 2009/2010

February 2010

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TOTAL MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION UNDER QUANTITY SURVEYING DIVISION WITHOUT DEFAULTERS

AS AT 14th February 2010

Division/Class	2009		2010		Members to date
	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	
<i>Fellow</i>		0		0	123
<i>Member</i>		0		6	801
<i>Graduate</i>		2		47	898
<i>Probationer</i>		0		15	180
<i>Student</i>		0		21	544
TOTAL		2		89	2546

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

How time flies! It has been four months since the last publication in October and this is the second issue for this session 2009/2010. The last issue will be out in June 2010.

The QS Division has been very busy with many interesting events happening. MIDA grant has been granted to us and BQSM has initiated the registration of qualified Quantity Surveyors from the private sector via "Special Route" without TPC and Two Tier Registration System. Implementation date will be notified.

Please contact the Secretariat for more information on these two types of registration. There will be many more CPD talks in future so please check ISM website regularly.

Happy New Year to all members celebrating the year of the TIGER!! For the rest of us not celebrating, HAVE FUN!

Sr Ang Fuey Lin, MISM.

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF ISM QS DIVISION

HAPPY NEW YEAR 2010 to you all and KONG XI FA CAI to all members celebrating Chinese New Year.

The construction and development sector seems to be moving again and we are getting busy. For those who think that the recovery may not be real, please do your part to make it real and for those who believe the recovery is real, please do your part to make it move faster and smoothly by giving your best service.

Our mother earth is in trouble from years of abuse and as a consequence the erratic weather and many natural disasters. We should take some time off from our busy schedule to help protect our environment. Remember the 5 Rs; Refuse, Reduce, Reuse, Repair and Recycle. Adopt a more frugal and green life style. For those already doing it, THANK YOU, and for the others who have not, please get started, our time is running out.

Thank you for your attention and wish you all a SUCCESSFUL and HEALTHY year ahead.

Regards

CHEW NANE CHEONG, FISM

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT:

Special thanks to Maldivian student **HUSSAIN HAMEEM**, a first year Degree student in Taylor's University College for designing the layout of this issue of Berita QS.

MIDA GRANT

(Financial Assistance under the services sector capacity development fund (SSCDF))

Good news! ISM applied for MIDA grant and approval was given to the four divisions of ISM. For the QS Division, CPD seminars to be conducted using Services Sector Capacity Development Fund (SSCDF) are:

A) CPD Seminars

6 seminars were proposed but only 3 was approved; any of the 3 seminars listed below will be conducted using MIDA grant

- i. Talk on Site Safety and Health
- ii. The Economics of Green Buildings
- iii. Facilities Management
- iv. Adjudication as a dispute resolution method
- v. Quantity Surveying – Back 2 Basics
- vi. Contract drafting in plain English

B) Globalization – FIDIC and JCT training seminar

C) Seminar on smart partnering and innovative practices

D) Industrialized Building System (IBS)

E) Green building index (GBI) seminar

F) Upgrading and modernization of BCIC

A total of RM 208,100.00 has been approved for the above activities. The seminars will be carried out under CPD talks. Entries will be free to all members. Please keep in touch with the ISM website for the dates.

ISM visit to the Board of Quantity Surveyors Malaysia (BQSM)

The QS Division paid a courtesy call to the Board of Quantity Surveyors Malaysia (BQSM) to attend a meeting on 25th January 2010 to discuss TWO important issues:

(A) Registration as a Quantity Surveyor via “Special Route” with the Board for Quantity Surveyors in the private sector.

- a) The Board of Quantity Surveyors (BQSM) will implement this registration through “Special Route” with the cooperation of ISM where it is open to all QS who has a minimum of EIGHT working years of relevant QS experience in the private sector.
- b) However, the Candidate has to pass a Professional Practice Paper (PP2) conducted by ISM. This will be held at least TWO times a year for successful implementation of this scheme.
- c) There is a special form for “Special Route” registration for private sector QS available from ISM/BQSM and candidates can also download this from ISM

website.

- d) The period of this “Special Route” registration runs from 1.3.2010 to 31.5.2012 and all candidates intending to go through this “Special Route” registration are advised to contact ISM as soon as possible.
- e) Completed application forms should be submitted to ISM for preliminary vetting.

B) Two Tier registrations for all Quantity Surveyors.

The QS Act 1967 requires that any person who practise or carry on business or take up employment as QS must be registered with the Board of QS Malaysia (BQSM). To date, BQSM does not make any distinction or have different requirements or criteria for registration between those who wish to set up practice as a Consultant QS (CQS) from those who merely want to take up employment as QS.

Consequently, the ‘bar’ or requirement for registration has traditionally been set at a relatively high standard as those who obtained registration with the Board are deemed to be entitled to practise as a CQS, subject to any other requirements by the Board to practice.

It is timely to refine and further improve the registration procedure by differentiating between those who merely wish to be employed as QS from those who may wish to be CQS. Existing system can be viewed as onerous for those merely seeking employment as a QS but inadequate or lax for those intending to practise as CQS. A significant portion, if not majority of QS graduates now work in contracting firms, many in relatively small set ups. The revised system should be able to cater for them to the extent that they will be eligible and be able to qualified as registered QS, as required by the Act rather than be excluded, for failure or inability to comply with the requirements of the TPC leading to registration.

The solution is to have Two-Tier registration system, one for those merely to work or be employed as a QS, the other for those intending to practise as CQS. If adopted, the changes may require amendments to BQSM’s Rules and Rules and Guide to the Joint TPC. It is proposed that in order to differentiate between those who have passed the first and second tier of registration, different designations would be considered, probably to be consistent with the system adopted by the Board of Engineers i.e. Registered QS and Professional QS for first tier and second tier registration respectively.

The Board has decided to implement the Two Tier registration for the TPC and had formed sub-committees to study its implementation and prepare the syllabus for the second tier examination.

The first Two-Tier sub-committee had their first meeting on 4th February 2010 in ISM. It was headed by Sr Chuah Siow Leng and details have yet to be finalized.

Message from Chair SMM subcommittee on SMM2 tabulation.

There are eight of us in the committee namely Assoc. Prof Sr. Sabaria Hassan ,Assoc. Prof Dr. Fadzil Hassan, Assoc. Prof Bahari Sahat, Encik Masnizan Che Mat, Encik . Nasyairi Md. Nasir,Puan Siti Suhana Judi, Puan Nor-fashiha Hashim and Puan Siti Mazuana Shamsuddin.

The QS Division has requested the SMM sub-committee to look into the revisions of the existing SMM2.

After our first brain storming cum discussion session, we decided to adopt the SMM7 tabulation format on the existing SMM2 which is currently being in used by the industry. The reason being the format of the existing SMM2 is well established and is readily understood which will make it easier for those trained locally and internationally to understand. It took about a month for us to finish the first round of conversion.

A working retreat was planned for the second phase of the conversion process where all members presented their findings and any misinterpretation of clauses to be corrected. It was held at Armada Hotel PJ from 29-31 January 2010. The kick-off was a meeting at 4.00pm, followed by dinner and dragged on until 11.45pm. On Saturday, when others enjoyed their Thaipusam holidays, we the committee members continued to work from 9.00am until 11.00pm. By 11.00pm all of us were very tired and decided to call it a day. On Sunday, 15 out of 20 sections of the SMM2 were converted and harmonized into SMM7 tabulation format. The result of our findings was analyzed and presented to the QS Division Chairman (who was very supportive of the whole exercise) together with Sr Mohamad Shazali Sulaiman, a QS Divisional committee member who visited us at the Armada Hotel at about 11.00am.

After the discussion and presentation, it was decided that we have to:

- finalize our report/ finding to the division by the next meeting.
- suggest the next course of action
- submit the amended proposal (taking into account of the latest development/ decision)

After lunch all of us checked-out and headed home for our long deserved rest. I would like to congratulate and give the eight committee members a big pat on the back for being hardworking, understanding and sporting, throughout the retreat session. All of them are the best, productive and an enjoyable team to work with which everyone wants to belong! Congratulations on a job well done!

Regards,

Assoc. Prof. Sr. Sabaria Hassan

Workshop on Surveying Services Liberalization

This talk/workshop was held on 15th December 2009 in Crowne Plaza Mutiara Plaza, KL.

It is about Malaysia's liberalization of the Services Sector in general with emphasis on the surveying profession and proposes recommendations on the urgent actions required for liberalization.

The government through the Cabinet Committee on Services Liberalization (CCSL) chaired by the then Deputy Prime Minister decided on **14 November 2008** that liberalization of the services sector (allow 100% foreign equity under mode 3) be **brought forward from 2015-2012.**

The Government has embarked on the policy to liberalize the services sector to attract foreign investment into the country. Increased foreign investment into the services sector will also enable us to move from a middle income to a upper income as envisioned in the new economic model for Malaysia.

During the workshop, Sr Kwan Hock Hai gave a brief background related to liberalization of QS services and also a quick update of current issues as follows:-

BACKGROUND

a) QS first went to present our services at the ASEAN CCS meeting in 2003. Since then nothing much has progressed with regards to our offers and requests at ASEAN level.

b) However, at AFAS level, we were supposed to have liberalized equity holdings as follows:

By 2008 – 49%

BY 2010 – 51%

By 2015 – 70%

This is our commitment at AFAS level which we are currently unable to meet as the Acts are not amended.

c) He indicated that there is a major difference between our commitments under AFAS and the autonomous liberalization or the services sector announced by the Prime Minister in February 2009, where we are supposed to have liberalized equity holdings by 100%. Under AFAS, we are committed on paper. For autonomous liberalization, we are not committed – but since announcement is made we will have to honour it.

d) As for the 100% equity holding autonomous liberalization by 2012, he mentioned that it has been adopted by KKR and the Board of QS Malaysia has been directed to comply by amending the Acts. In fact, PSDC prepared a paper to KKR on progressive liberalization starting with 51% by 2011.

e) In this respect, the Board of Quantity Surveyors has amended their Roadmap for liberalization to reflect the accelerated 2012 plan as directed by KKR.

f) Sr Kwan reminded the workshop of the many papers presented on this subject, that while there are -

major challenges on global liberalization of the QS services, there are also the benefits associated with GATS and that eventually, Trade is the Engine of Growth.



CURRENT ISSUES AND STATUS

A) Sr Kwan commented that the Board has completed its proposed amendments of the QS Act 1967. Among the major issues related to liberalization are:-

- i) The citizenship clause will be dropped
- ii) Foreigners can now apply to be registered as long their qualifications are recognized by the Board. However, he cautioned that a lot of work needs to be done with regards to recognition of working experience and or QS degrees from reputable universities, but not included in our list because these universities have not seen accreditation with the Board.
- iii) Equity holdings are opened to all, but directors must be registered Quantity Surveyors. This means that a Sole Proprietor must be a Malaysian. Sr Kwan cautioned that there may be some resistance to this proposal on SP.
- iv) The Board is now proposing a 2 tier registration system; Tier 1 for any registered surveyors and Tier 2 for those who wish to proceed to form their own practice.
- v) Under the second tier, there may be a new examination paper on Local Practice – to be discussed further by the Committee

B) Sr Kwan commented that currently a study on "Increasing the Contribution of Business and Professional Services to the Malaysian Economy" is being carried by Accenture Sdn Bhd under the commission of EPU. Some recommendations will be forwarded to the stock holders upon completion of the study.

C) Sr Kwan commented that QS should pursue their own Code of Product Classification for QS services but under the banner of ISM, must we wait for other surveying disciplines to have a joint CPC?

The discussion was then opened to the floor for comments.

There is a copy of the "Action plan for the Liberalization of the Construction- related professional services sector by 2010." and the "Road map for the liberalization of the Engineering, Architecture and Quantity Surveying sub-sectors" for your reference and perusal in ISM. Please contact the Secretariat for this.

Message from the Chair of Junior Organization (JO) on QS Jamboree

Greetings from the Junior Organization (JO) of QS Division. We will be hosting the QS Jamboree 2010 from 5 – 7 March. To date we have 100% participation from all the 10 Universities and Colleges. As the Chair, I am so fortunate to have the Universities and Colleges continuous support for events hosted under JO. A big thank you to UM, UIA, UiTM Shah Alam, UiTM Perak, UTM City Campus, UTM Skudai, Inti College, Taylors University College, USM Penang & UTAR.

This session the QS Jamboree will be co-hosted with UM. Thank you to Sr Dr Hafez Salleh & Sr Umi Kalsum Zolkafli of Fakulti Alam Bina, UM for their time and commitment in ensuring that the QS Jamboree is a blast.

The committee has put in much effort preparing for the activities during these 3 days 2 nights event. After the registration and the welcoming session, they will be having group discussion in an event named 'An Evening with Srs'. Each group of approximately 10 students will be lead by professional QS to discuss on their career path and what the future holds for QS graduates. A BBQ dinner themed 'Malam Perpaduan' will await the participants the first night. This is heeding our Prime Minister's call of 1 Malaysia, promoting unity among the different ethnicity.

The next day there will be a Mini QS Race and talks by professionals in the afternoon. 'Beyond Say – A Night to Remember' will be hosted that night. Students will have the opportunity to have their group performance on stage.

On the third day, groups will be playing a board game named 'Are You Cut to be a Quantity Surveyor?' followed by the closing ceremony.

As the Chair, I strongly believe that there should be fun while gaining knowledge. The committee hopes that this event will be something that the students will cherish in their memory forever.

**Chair of Junior Organization,
Sr Fadilah Mohamad Camaludin., FISM**

QS Division Visit to Northern Branch (Penang)



On 16th-17th January 2010, the QS Division made a visit to the northern branch in Penang.

The 7th QS Divisional meeting was held in City Bayview Hotel at 9am followed by a dialogue with the Northern Branch QS Committee Members and general members on 16 January 2010 at 11.30 a.m.

Issues that were discussed were:

TPC Tutorial to be held in Penang

- Sr Lim Yoke Mui from Northern Branch QS Committee requested for TPC tutorials for the exam similar to those held in HQ to be conducted in Penang if possible..
- The Division proposed the Northern Branch to train up examiners in Penang if possible. However, the Division informed that if there are 6-8 graduates sitting for TPC, the TPC committee will look into this on training and funds. Branch members who require this training are requested to submit in their names to the Northern Branch office.

Feedback on exam results

- A candidate who sat for TPC Examination but failed always enquired the reasons for their failure and wants some feedback.
- The Division informed that there are no model answers given so far.

Accessibility into Research Activities

- General members enquired for better accessibility into research activities available in HQ Library.
- The Division informed that with the MIDA grant, the library will buy the "OPEC" system and access will be available once implemented.

Articles for Berita QS

- Articles were requested from the Northern Branch QS Division for the Berita QS.

CPD Talk in Penang

- The members from Northern branch requested for some CPD talks to be held in Penang.

Going Green

- There was a suggestion that ISM should play an important role to protect our environment and carry out some "Green" activities e.g. recycling.

The next 8th QS Divisional meeting will be in Kuching on 13th -14th March in conjunction with the visit to the East Malaysian branch and ISM council meeting there.



COURTESY VISIT TO THE INSTITUTION OF ENGINEERS MALAYSIA (MALAYSIA, 5 FEBRUARY 2010)

On 5th February 2010, ISM paid their first visit to the Institution of Engineers Malaysia (IEM). Items discussed were Building Surveyors' role in demolition of buildings, involvement of surveyors in green buildings and IBS, property management service within the profession of the Property Consultancy & Valuation Surveying, Geomatic & Land Surveying – impact of earthquakes, conducting Professional exams and Short Courses for candidates, ways to enhance relationship between the two professional bodies, co-operation to organize CPD Events and Ir and PE usage.



TECHNICAL VISIT TO ICI Paint Factory, Nilai

12-12-2009 (Saturday)

8:00 am - 1:00 pm



THE MEMORANDUM OF CO-OPERATION

Signed between the Institution of Surveyors Malaysia (ISM)
and

Singapore Institute of Surveyors and Valuers (SISV)

On 9 January 2010



CONTINUING PROFESSIONLA DEVELOPMENT (CPD) TALKS

Two CPD talks have been successfully organized:

Item	Date	Time	Title	Speakers	Venue	CPD Points	No. of participants
1	31 October 2009 (Saturday)	9.00 a.m – 1.00 p.m	PRODUCT AWARENESS TALK ON WALL SYSTEM, ROOF TRUSSES, TILES AND PAINT BY UAC BERHAD & ASSOCIATE COMPANIES <i>Solid Wall System - the latest Product & Application</i> <i>UAC Steel Roof Truss - Various Applications & Costing</i> <i>Product Knowledge of Ceramic Tiles</i> <i>Paint – Common Problem and Remedy</i>	Mr. Alvin Chong, Sales Engineer, UAC Bhd. Mr. Aaron Lai, General Manager, UAC Steel Systems Sdn Bhd En. Ali Sabri Salehuddin, General Manager (Operations & Technical), Johan Ceramics Berhad En. Hazri Hamzah, Boustead Sissons Paint Sdn Bhd	IEM Auditorium	LJBM - 2	147
2	23 January 2010 (Saturday)	9.00 a.m – 1.00 p.m	A COLLOQUIUM ON THE PAM FORMS OF CONTRACT - IS THE PAM 2006 PRO EMPLOYER OR PRO CONTRACTOR?	Four members of the PAM Contract Review Committee; Ar. Tan Pei Ing, Ar. Chee Soo Teng, Ar. Jerry Sum and Ar. Low Khian Seng	Taylor's College Petaling Jaya Auditorium	LJBM - 2 LAM - 2	120

For future events please refer to ISM website on the dates.

Planned CPD topics in 2010

1. Green building index (GBI) seminar
2. Industrialized Building System (IBS)
3. Quantity Surveying – Back 2 Basics
4. Site Safety and Health
5. Facilities Management
6. Adjudication as a dispute resolution method
7. Contract drafting in plain English
8. Globalization – FIDIC and JCT Capacity building programme
9. Seminar on smart partnering and innovative practices

PROPOSED JOINT VENTURE FOR IBS MODULES DEVELOPMENT & TRAINING BY PAM, ACEM & ISM

Architect Centre Sdn Bhd proposed a joint venture for IBS Modules Development & training by the professional bodies. The first committee meeting met on 15th January 2010 and ISM was represented by Sr Yeap Soon Kiat.

Aims of IBS Training:

To increase the competencies of Consultants for project bidding, costing and the ability to compete with foreign competitors when the market is liberalised by 2012.

The Meeting agreed as follows:

- i) PAM/ACEM/ISM to collaborate on developing the IBS Modules (list appended)
- ii) To run the training courses, starting with the ones already available:
IBS301 AND IBS302.
- iii) To initially offer to the professionals and move on to Contractors & Product Manufacturer as we progress in developing the modules
- iv) IBS modules that are developed jointly shall be shared.
- v) To develop the Modules:
IBS303, IBS304, IBS305, IBS306, IBS307

Certificate of Completion and Compliance

A Quick Look at the Certifying Forms

By: Lim Yoke Mui

School of Housing, Building and Planning,
Universiti Sains Malaysia, Pulau Pinang
(ymlim@usm.my)

INTRODUCTION

The government has announced that the new building delivery system will take effect on 12th April 2007 and various mechanism has been set up to ensure the success of the new delivery system, one of which is the certification of building fit for occupation by professionals instead of the local authorities. This is done through the Certificate of Completion and Compliance. Subsequent from their role as the submitting consultants and designers, both professional Architects and Engineers are the natural choice as the certifiers. Although on the surface, this process does not seem to involve the Quantity Surveyors whom do not need to certify any part of the work, the notion is far from the truth. With the need for self-certification, there are many requirements that need to be included in the contract document to ensure that all parties are aware of their role and responsibility.

Background

The process for this change started on 26th June 2004 when the then Prime Minister calls for a change in the certification of completed buildings (Chen & Fong, 2007). Instead of the local authorities issuing the Certificate of Fitness for Occupation, the professionals will be responsible to certify if a building is fit for occupancy. The intention for this change is to improve the efficiency of the building delivery system (Chen & Fong, 2007). Since then, The Ministry of Works and The Ministry of Housing and Local Government together with construction professionals have came out with the framework and system for the new certification process. On 12th April 2007, the new building delivery system has taken effect but all local authorities and related agencies were given 2 months for effective implementation (Chen & Fong, 2007). These new delivery systems consist of not only the self certification for fitness for occupation but also the One-Stop-Centre approval system, appointment of the Commissioner of Building and the Built-then-Sell (10:90) system.

FEATURES OF THE NEW DELIVERY SYSTEM

This system will be applicable only to buildings that have submitted plans after 12th April 2007. All other submission before that date will still be using the old system of Certificate of Fitness for Occupation. In this new system, the building plans will still be approved by the local authorities but it will be done more efficiently through the One-Stop-Centre approval system. The new certification system requires much more forms than the previous system, 21 forms in total (see Table

1). All forms will require the signature of the Principal Submitting Person (PSP) which is either the Engineer or Architect. In addition to the PSP, these forms will also require the signature of the Main Contractor or Trade Contractor depending on the works to be certified. This is to ensure that the party responsible for the work will be accountable for his portion of work. In addition to the signatures, some works require clearance from the relevant authorities and the Letter of Clearance from these authorities must be attached together with the relevant forms. The works that require such Letter of Clearance are passive and active fire-fighting, lift/escalator, external water supply system, sewerage reticulation and treatment plant, external electrical supply system and roads and drains. CCC cannot be issued if these forms are not complete and the required Letter of Clearance is not secured.

In addition, for some works like internal electrical work, the contractor must ensure that he employs a competent electrician. The system is still looking for a method to identify competent person and who will be responsible for registration especially for the various trade contractors. It is suggested that, if there is no regulating body, stating the I.C. no of the certifier will suffice at this juncture (Chen & Fong, 2007).

Although the certification is conducted by the submitting architect or engineer, the local authorities will still maintain their right and power to enter the site during construction prior to issuance of CCC (Chen & Fong, 2007). In addition, the local authorities have the power to issue an order to stop the issuance of CCC by the PSP if the building is found to have breached the approved building plans in respect to health and safety aspects (Chen & Fong, 2007).

Conclusion

Table 1 lists all the required forms together with the certifying parties in the CCC system. Additional remarks are included to explain the various approval and letters from the relevant authorities that need to be attached to the forms.

References

- Chen Thiam Leong, Fong Tian Yong, (2007) "CCC: Its Impact on Engineers", seminar paper, Penang, Bayview Hotel, 20 July.
- Borang G Undang-undang Kecil Bangunan Seragam 1984 (accessed 2 November 2007: [http://www.pam.org.my/Library/ccs/FormG1-G21\(BM\).pdf](http://www.pam.org.my/Library/ccs/FormG1-G21(BM).pdf))

Table 1 : Forms G and Certifying Agents

No	Form	Certifying Party	Remarks
1	G1: Earthworks	Contractor (CIDB) Engineer (BOE)	
2	G2: Setting Out	Contractor (CIDB) Land Surveyor (BOLS) Engineer (BOE)/Architect(BOA)	
3	G3: Foundations	Contractor (CIDB) Engineer (BOE)	
4	G4:Structural	Contractor (CIDB) Engineer (BOE)	
5	G5: Internal Water Plumb- ing	Plumber Engineer (BOE)/Architect(BOA)	
6	G6: Internal Sanitary Plumbing	Plumber Engineer (BOE)/Architect(BOA)	
7	G7: Internal Electrical	Electrician Engineer (BOE)	Electrician need to be a competent person
8	G8: Fire-fighting (Passive)	Contractor (CIDB) Engineer (BOE)	Need to attach Letter of Clearance from the Fire Department of Malaysia (except for residential buildings n.e. 18m high)
9	G9: Fire-fighting (Active)	Trade Contractor Engineer (BOE)	Need to attach Letter of Clearance from the Fire Department of Malaysia (except for residential buildings n.e. 18m high)
10	G10: Mechanical Ventila- tion	Trade Contractor Engineer (BOE)	
11	G11: Lift/Escalator	Trade Contractor Engineer (BOE)	Compliance Certificate from the De- partment of Health and Safety
12	G12: Building	Contractor (CIDB) Engineer (BOE)/ Architect (BOA)	
13	G13: External Water Sup- ply System	Trade Contractor Engineer (BOE)	Need to attach Letter of Clearance from Water Works Department to confirm water supply is ready for in- stallation.
14	G14: Sewerage Reticula- tion	Trade Contractor Engineer (BOE)	Need to attach Letter of Clearance from Department of Sewerage Ser- vices/Indah Water Consortium
15	G15: Sewerage Treatment Plant	Trade Contractor Engineer (BOE)	Need to attach Letter of Clearance from Department of Sewerage Ser- vices/Indah Water Consortium
16	G16: External Electrical Supply System	Trade Contractor (Suruhanjaya Elektrik) Engineer (BOE)	If the installation is performed by TNB, there is no need for signature of trade contractor. Need to attach Letter of Clearance from TNB to confirm electricity power supply is ready for installation.
17	G17: Road and Drain	Contractor (CIDB) Engineer (BOE)	Need to attach Letter of Clearance from Local Authorities/JKR. Letter is deemed issued after 14 days from date of application.
18	G18: Street Lighting	Trade Contractor (Suruhanjaya Elektrik) Engineer (BOE)	
19	G19: External Main Drain	Contractor (CIDB) Engineer (BOE)	
20	G20: Telecommunication	Trade Contractor Engineer (BOE)	
21	G21: Landscape	Trade Contractor Landscape Architect	

NEWS FROM MEMBERS OVERSEAS

Some differences I observe between Malaysia and New Zealand

by Sr Noushad Ali Naseem Ameer Ali

1.0 Current bases

My family is for now based in Dunedin, South Island, New Zealand. I am attached to a quantity surveying practice in Petaling Jaya – CIC-QS Services Sdn Bhd. I now spend more time in Dunedin than Petaling Jaya.

There are many similarities between Malaysia and New Zealand but let me share some differences that may be of interest.

1.1 Professional fees

We have a scale of fees for construction professionals in Malaysia, but practices typically give massive discounts – and still survive. In New Zealand QS fees are typically closer to 2% - and they survive too.

1.2 15 July 2009

15 July 2009 is a day I will always remember. It was the day God shook the world – physically in New Zealand, and metaphorically in Malaysia. Let me elaborate. New Zealand has thousands of earthquakes every year; Malaysia suffers only the occasional aftershock.

1.2.1 15 July 2009 – earthquake in South Island, New Zealand

It was my family's first experience of an earthquake (the largest so far in the world this year). It was a rumbling experience, a larger scale of the equivalent of a fasting rumbling tummy – pun intended. Our experience lasted for less than 30 seconds. Our feelings were more anticipatory, wondering with feelings of uncertainty and surprise more than fear. I would even venture to suggest it was somewhat 'fun'. But that is because we were far from the epi-centre. People nearer Te Anau, Queenstown, and the South Island Sounds, were running out of restaurants when it happened as they were shaken more thoroughly. We were in Te Anau and the Doubtful Sounds only a fortnight earlier.

The whole family including our four young children 'enjoyed' this 'rumbling' experience, and did not quite run immediately to stand under the door lintels or crouch next to the large sofa sets as taught in schools. We only experienced a relatively mild version – probably milder than what my father felt at the Mont' Kiara condominiums a few years earlier. The Mont' Kiara experience was bad enough that everyone ran out of the condominiums following the shocks from a distant earthquake.

1.2.2 15 July 2009 – Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

That was the day of the cabinet meeting that finally gave the go ahead to develop a Construction Industry Payment and Adjudication Bill for Parliament to debate. It was a major milestone after years of effort following initiatives by the construction industry.

Captains of the construction industry met at a roundtable

on 24 June 2003. In the UK, a similar initiative resulted in the famous Latham report – which then eventually resulted in the 'revolutionary' and 'runaway success' of construction adjudication more than ten years ago. In Malaysia, I sometimes casually called the roundtable the 'Hamzah-Kasi' roundtable. One major eventual outcome was the construction industry Masterplan for 2015. As chair of the Working Group on Payment (WG 10) I made recommendations for a 'Construction Industry Payment and Adjudication Act' more than 5 years ago. And we have all been persevering. The follow-on leadership, initiative and drive by the CIDB were remarkable. The support from industry was enormous and the efforts made by several key industry players through their own initiatives to support were very encouraging and helpful. Most notable among them was the Master Builders Association Malaysia. They spoke without fear, but more importantly they paid close attention and kept up to date and were knowledgeable about our proposals. Good on them.

Now with the go-ahead (despite reservations and earlier objections from the Bar Council), I hope the Bill can be formalised, and that Parliament eventually passes the Act. It is long over-due to seriously address payment problems within the construction industry, and to address gross inefficiency associated with traditional methods of resolving construction disputes.

1.3 Traffic? What traffic?

Oh one more thing ... it takes me between 5 and 10 minutes to the city centre, a world class university, a huge library, whatever shops one would need, a decent sized computer shop selling Macs, a huge multi-pool swimming complex complete with 5 pools, aqua jogging facilities, gym etc, an indoor sports and events complex that can fit the equivalent of 20 or more tennis, basketball or other courts and all other city and recreational facilities including beaches and surfing. And if you were willing to drive for over 20 or 30 minutes, you would end up on snow capped mountains, rare yellow-eyed penguin colonies, albatrosses, sea lions, and seals – all wild ones in natural surroundings.

1.4 Home-office and unskilled workers

So, Dunedin does not have the inefficiencies resulting from excessive traffic jams. Despite this, an increasing number of Dunedinites go further, and choose to work from a home office. That helps protect the environment. New Zealand is a nuclear free zone, and the Kiwis are obsessed about protecting the environment – and obsessed about rugby and the All Blacks! Apart from that parents working from home are able to pick up their children from school at 3pm and send them for after school sports activities as kids typically go to schools that are within zones marked around where they live. Many walk to and from school – snowy or sunny day.

Parents are expected to look after their kids. There are no maids, whether from Indonesia or Philippines, in New Zealand. They are not permitted. There are also no unskilled Indonesian construction workers in New Zealand. There are baby-sitters, but they need prior police vetting.

1.5 Unpretentious

1.5.1 Cars

Flashy cars are sometimes frowned upon. Typically they are owned by Asians or the very wealthy locals. I do come across a Mercedes Benz car a couple of times or so a week on the Dunedin roads. I probably might have seen an S-class a couple of times over the past 6 months. In KL, I would be able to see a Mercedes Benz once every 2 minutes. A family with four children would typically drive an eight-seater Toyota Previa (called Estima in Malaysia) that would be over 8 years old. Because we have 4 young children and two still need booster seats, we too have a Previa. And because we found the cars in New Zealand cheap, (and probably also because we still have remnants of the Malaysian mentality), and we bought one that was under three-years old for the equivalent of under RM 50,000.00.

1.5.2 Plain communication

Increasingly, if a document is not written legibly in plain language, Kiwis (New Zealanders) will object to such documents.

All New Zealand Acts of Parliaments are available on-line and have no copyright. The public can download and print without having to buy them from the printers. And New Zealand parliamentary drafters have a policy of drafting Acts of Parliament in plain language – even tax laws. Their rationale is, if the public are expected to abide by the law;

- (i) legislation must be freely accessible, and
- (ii) legislation must be capable of being understood by the public

That to me makes good sense. Malaysia, Singapore and other developing countries would do well to emulate this approach. If we are to engage in sesquipedality, it should be because there is no other equivalent that would serve better.

1.6 Missing Malaysia

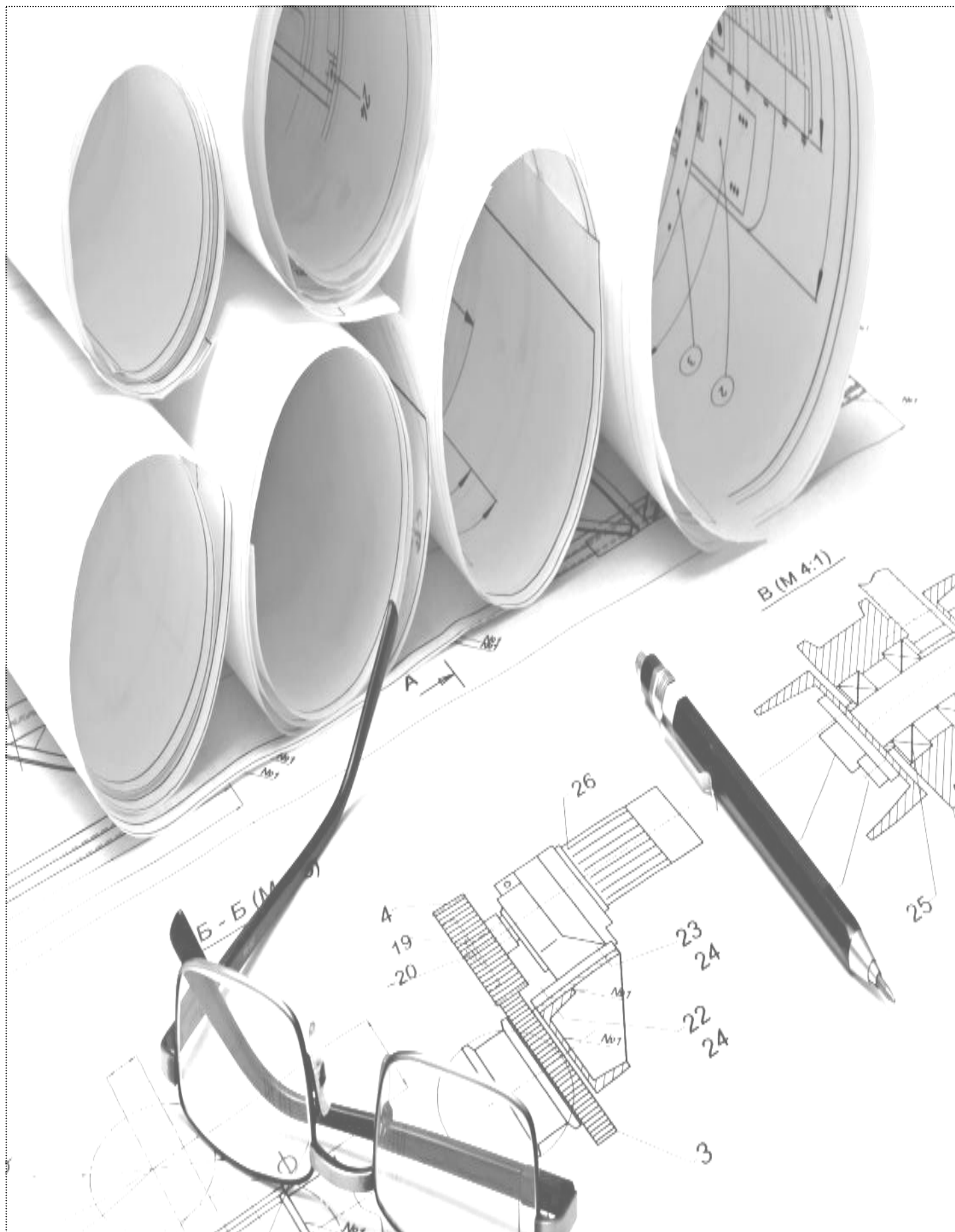
Ask a typical Malaysian on the street in New Zealand what they miss most about Malaysia and they would say Malaysian variety of food, and family. Some might add the warm weather. Ask me of Dunedin, and I would similarly say, compared to Kuala Lumpur, Dunedin lacks the delights and variety of lovely Malaysian food, and the vibrancy of a large multi-cultural society. The sheep in New Zealand out-number two-legged humans by a ratio of 10:1! Forty million sheep against 4 million people.

2.0 Conclusion

Some people tend to think the grass is always greener on the other side. I think, the ***grass can be green anywhere you want it to***. And with modern technology, the whole world is one large playing field – some more undulating than other – physically* and metaphorically. I suggest we should explore the whole world as a playing field and maximise the use of modern technology even while exploring.

LIST OF GAMES

GAMES	PLAYERS	ENTRY FEE PER TEAM	TENTATIVE DATE	TENTATIVE VENUE	PERSON TO CONTACT
Bowling	4P + 2R (Men) 4P + 2R (Ladies)	RM250.00	10 Apr 2010	One Utama	Sr Mohamad Shazali Bin Sulaiman (012-3226877)
Futsal	5P + 2R (Men) 5P + 2R (Ladies)	RM300.00	24 Apr 2010	Sports Planet, Sunway	Sr Mohamad Shazali Bin Sulaiman (012-3226877)



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