

RECOGNISING THE BEST IN CONSTRUCTION

KUALA LUMPUR: In recognising the country's best construction industry players for this year, Gamuda Bhd and long-time industry stalwart Datuk Professor Abdul Rahman Abdullah were awarded top prizes at the prestigious Malaysian Construction Industry Excellence Awards 2016.

The annual awards celebrate excellence in Malaysia's construction industry by honouring individuals and companies who have contributed and demonstrated best practices.

Hosted by the Construction Industry Development Board (CIDB), the awards, in its 16th edition, saw 18 participants competing to come out on top.

CIDB chief executive Datuk Ahmad 'Asri Abdul Hamid said the awards aimed to find the best among the best who nurtured and ingrained the culture of innovation and best practices in the construction industry.

"We are honouring excellent players and emphasising their practices on safety, sustainability, professionalism and integrity. All this is to ensure timely, quality and cost-effective construction that leads to high productivity for the benefit of the country," he said.

The winners, he added, did not only adopt the best practices, but by being recipients of the award, they also promoted their practices as the benchmark for other individuals and companies in the industry.

Gamuda Bhd received the main award — Builder of the Year — for demonstrating overall excellence in the company's performance and project implementation.

Gamuda deputy group managing director Datuk Paul Ha Tiing Tai thanked CIDB for the recognition, saying that their focus had always been on safety and quality.

"In our practices, we instil the culture of safety in construction workers and quality in every task.

"We carry out training programmes and collaborated with CIDB to ensure other industry players were aware of the importance of safety," he said.

Gamuda is synonymous with several of the country's most recognisable projects, namely the SMART tunnel here in the city, the Klang Valley mass rapid transit system and the Ipoh-Padang Besar double-track electrified railway project.

The Prominent Player Award was bagged by Rahman, who, being a veteran of almost 40 years in the industry, contributed significantly to policies and practices of today.

"It is good to see efforts during my day continue to flourish and improve. Ever since our days of independence, the most prominent events this country has seen are related to construction," said Rahman.

"A lot of facilities have been built specially for the rakyat of Malaysia. This started a long time ago and will continue to go on for many years to come."

Predicting the days of tomorrow, Rahman, who is also the founder of CIDB, said the industry would grow and become more sophisticated, and CIDB as the main player needed to guide

others to undertake future challenges.

Another main award is the Construction Leading Lady Award, which is given to a female leader who best represented the qualities and attributes of a high-performing construction company and has contributed to the industry significantly.

The recipient of this award is Minconsult Sdn Bhd executive director Datuk Rosaline Ganendra, who attributed her success to her parents and called for more female participation in the industry.

"There are many opportunities for women in the construction field, which is safe and neither dirty nor dangerous. I have said before that this industry is where women can do well, be at the top of the business and compete with others.

"I think we, as women, have a lot to give to Malaysia, and at the international level. My company has worked in 24 countries across five continents and this is testament to our hard work," she said.

Other awards included Best Chief Executive Officer, Best Contractor, Best Project, International Achievement, Special Awards and special mentions.

The awards ceremony were attended by Works Minister Datuk Seri Fadillah Yusof and CIDB chairman Tan Sri Dr Ahmad Tajuddin Mohd Ali, as well as about 1,000 industry figures.

Recipients were chosen by a 10-member panel headed by KLIA Premier Holdings Sdn Bhd chairman Tan Sri Dr Jamilul Hussein.

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Construction Industry Development Board (CIDB) chief executive **Datuk Ahmad 'Asri Abdul Hamid** (centre) and CIDB senior general manager (policy and corporate sector) **Sariah Abdul Karib** (second from left) sharing a light moment with winners (from left) Ahmad Zaki Resources Bhd chairman **Datuk Professor Abdul Rahman Abdullah**, Gamuda Bhd deputy group managing director **Datuk Paul Ha Tiing Tai** and Minconsult Sdn Bhd executive director **Datuk Rosaline Ganendra** after the press conference on the Malaysian Construction Industry Excellence Awards 2016 in Kuala Lumpur on Thursday. Pic by Aizuddin Saad