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(NOVEMBER 2025)**

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Webinar

Cost of Carbon:

Opportunities for Quantity Surveyors in Building Sustainable and Low-Carbon Futures

The webinar titled *Cost Carbon: Opportunity for Quantity Surveyors in Building Sustainable and Low-Carbon Futures* was successfully conducted on 05 November 2025 via Zoom and attracted a total of 80 participants. The session was accredited with 2 CPD points under BQSM and served as an engaging platform for industry practitioners to examine the expanding role of Quantity Surveyors in sustainability and low-carbon development.

The webinar aimed to examine the critical role of Quantity Surveyors in advancing sustainable and low-carbon practices within the construction industry. It provided participants with an in-depth understanding of global and national climate policies, carbon reduction strategies, and regulatory frameworks that influence cost planning and project delivery. Strong emphasis was placed on the integration of Sustainable Development Goals and Environmental, Social, and Governance principles into quantity surveying practices, highlighting professional opportunities to contribute meaningfully to the development of resilient and low-carbon cities. The overarching intention was to equip practitioners with relevant knowledge and practical perspectives to align professional responsibilities with climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies.

The session provided a comprehensive overview of climate-related challenges and their growing implications for urban development. It began by addressing the escalating climate crisis in cities, where rising temperatures driven by the urban heat island effect and intensified rainfall patterns had led to frequent flooding and increasing strain on infrastructure systems. A case study of Kuala

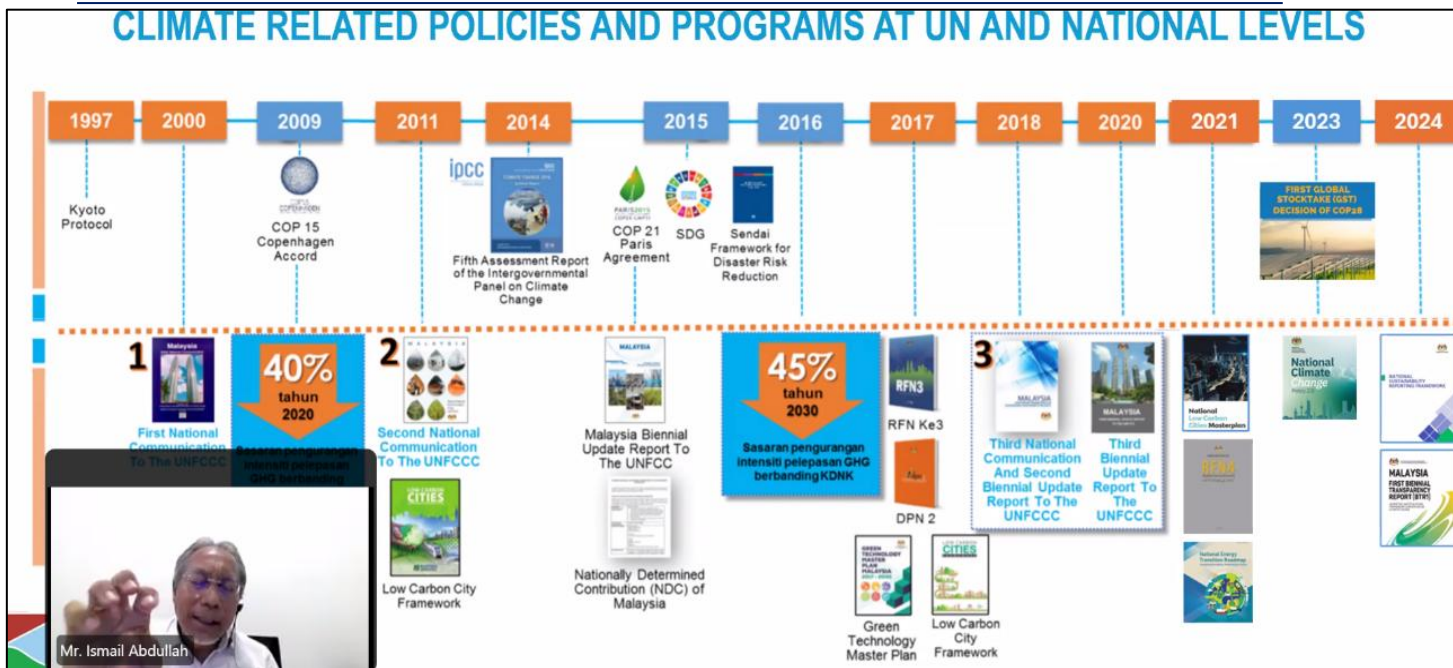
Lumpur was presented, referencing the catastrophic flood event of December 2021 that displaced more than 70,000 people and resulted in property damage estimated at USD 4 billion.

The webinar commenced at 9.00 a.m. and was moderated by Sr Aminudin Yahia, Chair of the Innovative Construction Sub-Committee of RISM, who provided an overview of the programme and introduced the speakers, namely Mr Ismail Abdullah, President and Chief Sustainability Officer of International Green Trends Cockpit Sdn Bhd, and TPr Ts Norliza Hashim, Chief Executive of Urbanics Malaysia.

Mr Ismail Abdullah opened the session by addressing the escalating climate crisis and its direct impact on urban environments. He highlighted the increasing severity of flooding events caused by the urban heat island effect and intensified rainfall, supported by temperature distribution maps of Kuala Lumpur. He elaborated on global and national climate policies, Malaysia's international commitments, and the implications of carbon pricing mechanisms such as the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism. Discussions also covered greenhouse gas emission types, carbon accounting principles, and the global pathway toward achieving net-zero emissions by 2050. He emphasized the evolving responsibilities of Quantity Surveyors in embedding sustainability into cost engineering practices through lifecycle costing, carbon measurement, and ESG compliance



CLIMATE RELATED POLICIES AND PROGRAMS AT UN AND NATIONAL LEVELS



Presentation by Mr. Ismail Abdullah

The evolution of global and national climate frameworks was then discussed, tracing developments from the Kyoto Protocol in 1997 through to Malaysia’s current initiatives, including the Low Carbon City Framework and the SDG Cities Programme. These initiatives reflected Malaysia’s commitment to reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 40 percent by 2030, later enhanced to 45 percent under the Nationally Determined Contributions.

Key climate strategies were explained, covering mitigation approaches such as clean energy adoption and energy efficiency, adaptation measures including flood protection and resilient infrastructure, and hybrid strategies that combine both approaches to enhance climate resilience.

Mr Ismail Bin Abdullah explained on SDG & ESD



RISM Webinar Title: From Cost to Carbon: Opportunities for Quantity Surveyors in Building Sustainable and Low-Carbon Futures

Date: 5 November 2025, Wednesday Time: 10am-1pm

Sub-title: **The Roles of Quantity Surveyor in the Sustainability Agenda** Speaker: **Ismail Abdullah IGTC - PCSO**

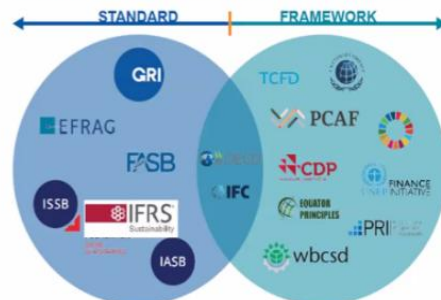
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDG) and ENVIRONMENTAL, SOCIAL & GOVERNANCE (ESG)

2 Frameworks that guide and measure sustainability efforts

SDG is the “what” – sets of global development goals. Companies can use SDGs as their ESG reporting framework



ESG reporting relies on a mix of global standards, frameworks, and rating agencies to assess and communicate the sustainability performance.



IGTC is an MOF registered Green Technology Consultant



Carbon pricing mechanisms were examined in detail, with particular focus on the European Union's Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism, which is designed to prevent carbon leakage. The projected carbon price of €64.4 per tonne of CO₂ under the EU and Swiss Emissions Trading System in 2025 was highlighted as having significant implications for global supply chains and construction material costs, reinforcing the need for Quantity Surveyors to incorporate carbon considerations into cost planning and procurement strategies.

Further discussions centred on sustainability frameworks, particularly the Sustainable Development Goals and ESG reporting standards, which provide structured approaches for measuring and communicating sustainability performance. Sustainability was presented as a solution-based response to climate change, requiring a balanced integration of economic viability, environmental protection, and social well-being.

Urban planning strategies were also highlighted, showcasing renewable energy integration, sustainable architecture, waste management systems, and urban farming initiatives. Malaysia's coastal vulnerability mapping was introduced as a strategic planning tool for guiding development in areas exposed to physical, biodiversity, and socio-economic risks.

The session further underscored Malaysia's environmental challenges, including significant loss of tree cover and the expansion of built-up areas, reinforcing the urgency of adopting sustainable development practices.

The session concluded with an interactive question and answer segment, where participants actively discussed implementation challenges, cost implications of low-carbon materials, and methods for integrating carbon considerations into tender evaluations.

After a short intermission, TPr Ts Norliza Hashim continued the session with a focus on urban planning strategies for low-carbon, resilient, and sustainable cities. She highlighted the compounding effects of climate change in urban areas, including rising temperatures, flooding, and soil erosion, and emphasized the importance of proactive planning. Coastal vulnerability mapping was presented as a vital tool to support climate adaptation and guide development decisions in high-risk areas. The presentation showcased global best practices in environmentally responsible urban development, emphasizing renewable energy use, sustainable architecture, efficient waste management, urban farming, and cultural initiatives that strengthen community identity and livability. Active engagement from participants reinforced the critical role of Quantity Surveyors in influencing policy development, project design, and sustainable urban outcomes.

TPr Ts Norliza Hashim

Climate Visuals are powerful tools that can make people understand better.

CLIMATE SOCIAL LLC

7 core principles for climate change communication

- Show real people
- Tell new stories
- Show climate change causes at scale
- Show emotionally powerful impacts
- Understand your audience
- Show local (but serious) impacts
- Be careful with protest imagery

Pantai Telaga Papan, Terengganu © Imej Dron oleh APLDG (2023)

Presentation by TPr Ts Norliza Hashim

DOING IT RIGHT!

Learning from the world's best environmentally friendly developments.

- Renewable energy
- Sustainable architecture
- Culture, arts and entertainment
- Waste management
- Sense of belonging
- Urban farming

Vauban is a green city especially in the areas of transportation, energy, waste management, land conservation, and green economics. Eco housing, car-free streets and socially conscious neighbours have made the German city of Freiburg a shining example of sustainability.

City of Malmö will be a global role model in using IT as a communicative, sustainable and innovative means for climate-smart urban development. It aims to create an urban environment with clean air and low noise levels. By 2030 all of Malmö will run on 100% renewable energy.

Hammarby stands as one of Stockholm's most pleasant residential districts and one of the world's most successful urban renewal districts. Hammarby's intention is to create an international model of sustainable development.

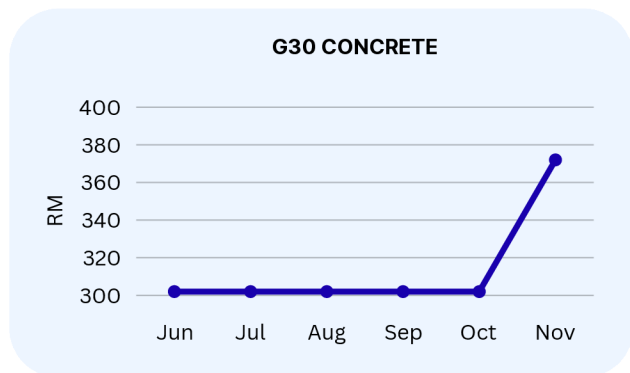
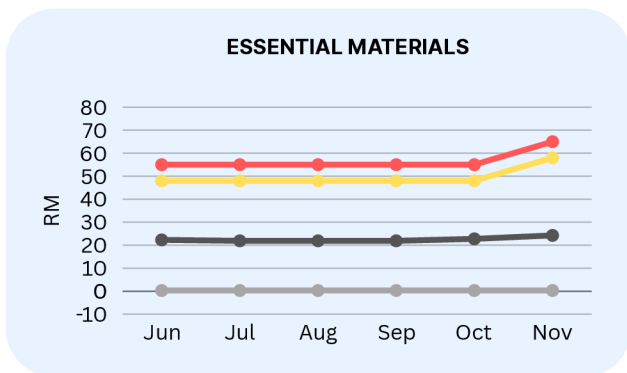
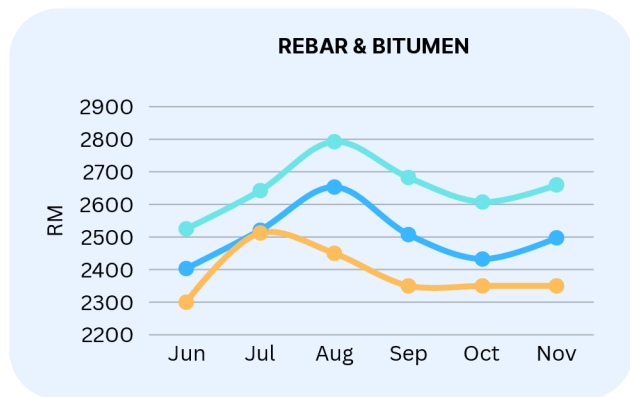
Dubai Sustainable City will be the first residential community of its kind in Dubai and is expected to meet the highest environmental standards by adopting a sustainable approach in its quest to become a regional leader in eco-tourism and global environmental protection.

TPr Ts Norliza Hashim

The RISM QS Academy extended its sincere appreciation to Mr Ismail Abdullah and TPr Ts Norliza Hashim for their insightful and impactful presentations. Their contributions provided participants with a deeper understanding of the strategic role of Quantity Surveyors in advancing sustainability and low-carbon practices within the built environment, while strengthening collective commitment toward Malaysia's climate and sustainability objectives.

BUILDING MATERIAL PRICES (NOVEMBER 2025)

Material	Unit	Price (RM)	Last Change	
			RM	%
R10 Rebar	tonne	2,660.00	+52.50	+2.01
Y12 Rebar	tonne	2,497.50	+65.00	+2.67
G30 Concrete	m ³	372.00	+70.00	+23.81
Normal River Sand	tonne	58.00	+10.00	+20.83
OP Cement	bag	24.25	+1.50	+6.59
Aggregate 3/4"	tonne	65.00	+10.00	+18.18
Cement Sand Brick	piece	0.30	+0.01	+3.45
Bitumen 60/70	tonne	2,350.00	unch	unch



November marked a clear turning point in construction material pricing, where accumulated cost pressures finally surfaced in market prices. After several months of relatively stable or suppressed levels, rebar prices edged higher as local suppliers eased earlier discounting and contractors replenished stocks ahead of year-end works and progress claims. Cement prices continued their upward adjustment, reflecting the gradual pass-through of higher energy, compliance, and operating costs that had been building through the second half of the year rather than any sudden change in demand.

More pronounced movements were seen in essential, locally sourced materials. Sand and aggregates experienced sharp price increases, driven by a combination of quarry supply constraints, rain-affected production, higher haulage costs, and tighter availability as activity picked up toward year-end. These increases fed directly into ready-mix concrete pricing. Having absorbed rising input and operating costs for several months, batching plants reset margins in November, resulting in a sudden jump in concrete prices after a prolonged period of stability. Bitumen remained largely unchanged due to stable oil prices and contract-based supply arrangements. Overall, the price movements reflect an intensification of on-the-ground construction cost pressure in November, signalling higher tender and execution risk moving into the following months.

Access more historical price data and updates at n3c.cidb.gov.my

