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EXCLUSIVE

RISM MEMBERS
WON AWARDS AT
THE PAQS
CONGRESS 2026
IN SRI LANKA.



ROYAL INSTITUTION OF SURVEYORS MALAYSIA

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Strengthening QS Education: SMM3 Training of Trainers at UNIMAS



PHOTOGRAPHY BY KIMBERLY TAN YEN

The Royal Institution of Surveyors Malaysia (RISM), through its Quantity Surveying Division, continued its commitment to strengthening the quality and consistency of Quantity Surveying education through the SMM3 Training of Trainers (TTT) programme held on 4 August 2026 at Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (UNIMAS). The programme brought together Quantity Surveying academics and professionals to deepen their understanding of the Standard Method of Measurement of Building Works, Third Edition (SMM3) and support its effective application in teaching, learning and professional practice.

SMM3 represents an important development in the Malaysian Quantity Surveying profession, providing an updated and standardised approach to the measurement and description of building works.

The workshop focused on strengthening participants' knowledge and practical understanding of the SMM3. Through a combination of technical discussions, practical examples and knowledge-sharing sessions, participants were provided with greater clarity on the interpretation and application of SMM3 across different areas of Quantity Surveying practice. The programme also created a valuable platform for professional engagement and networking between industry practitioners and academics.

The sessions were facilitated by four experienced trainers, namely AP Sr Dr Sarajul Fikri bin Mohamed, Sr Chin Keh Liang, Sr Ong Hock Tek, and Tuan Haji Mohd Nasruddin bin Ayub. Drawing from their extensive professional and academic experience, the trainers shared practical insights into the application of SMM3, highlighted key considerations when interpreting its provisions, and discussed how the standard can be effectively applied.

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Through initiatives such as the SMM3 Training of Trainers, RISM continues to strengthen professional standards while building the capabilities of the next generation of Malaysian Quantity Surveyors.

Sr Masnizan Che Mat

Chair QS Division



Building Capability for the Future

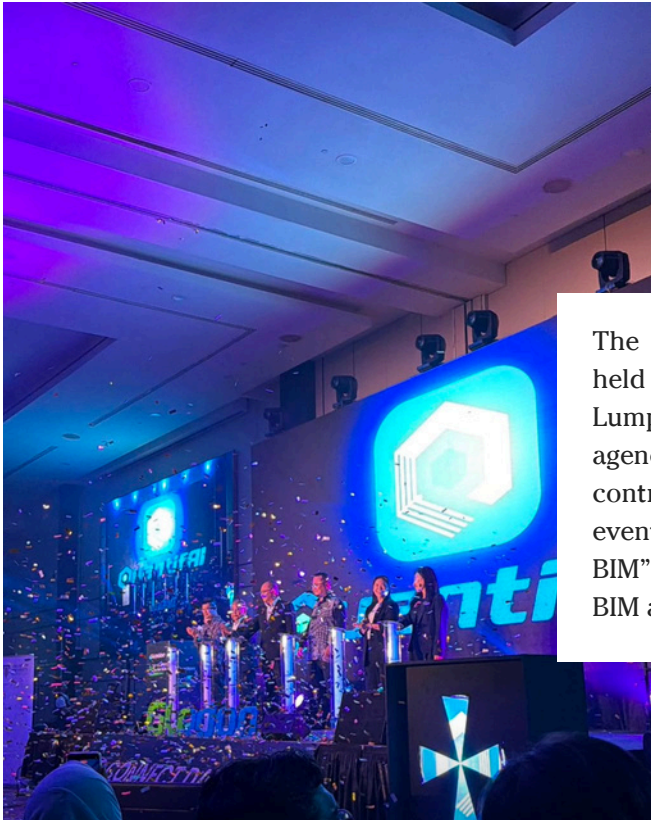
Beyond technical training, the SMM3 TTT reflects RISM's wider commitment to strengthening professional competency, educational quality and industry readiness within the Quantity Surveying profession. As measurement practices and industry expectations continue to evolve, it is important that educators remain current with national standards and are able to translate these requirements effectively into teaching, assessment and professional preparation.

By equipping educators with a stronger understanding of SMM3 and its practical application, the programme helps create greater consistency in the way measurement principles are interpreted and taught across higher education institutions. This is particularly important in ensuring that future Quantity Surveyors develop a sound technical foundation and enter the profession with greater confidence in applying contemporary Malaysian measurement standards. The TTT model also creates a valuable multiplier effect.

Each participating educator is able to transfer the knowledge gained to successive cohorts of students, extending the impact of the programme well beyond the training itself. In this way, the initiative contributes to long-term capability building by strengthening not only individual educators, but also the wider academic and professional ecosystem supporting Quantity Surveying education.

The initiative further demonstrates the importance of continued collaboration between RISM, universities and industry. Professional bodies provide the standards and professional direction, universities develop future talent, while industry brings practical insight into how these standards are applied in real projects. Stronger interaction between these groups helps ensure that Quantity Surveying education remains relevant, consistent and responsive to changing professional and industry needs.

While new technologies may transform how measurement and cost management are undertaken, a strong understanding of professional standards, judgement and consistency remains fundamental.



GLODON AEC Connect Day 2026

The AEC Connect Day 2026, organised by Glodon Malaysia, was held on 14 August 2026 at the KLGCC Convention Centre, Kuala Lumpur, bringing together representatives from government agencies, industry associations, developers, consultants, contractors, academia and the wider construction community. The event was held under the theme “Double Intelligence with AI × 5D BIM”, highlighting the growing integration of artificial intelligence, BIM and data-driven workflows within the built environment.

The future of Quantity Surveying is not simply about automating measurement — it is about using AI and digital information to enable smarter, faster and higher-value professional decision-making.

AEC Connect Day 2026 also featured discussions on “Reimagining Quantity Takeoff: From Traditional BIM to AI-Powered 5D,” highlighting how AI, BIM and connected project data are transforming construction cost management and decision-making.

The session reflected the evolving role of Quantity Surveyors, with greater emphasis on interpreting digital information, validating automated outputs and providing higher-value professional advice.

For RISM and the Quantity Surveying profession, these developments reinforce the need to strengthen digital competency, AI literacy and data-driven decision-making among both practitioners and future graduates.

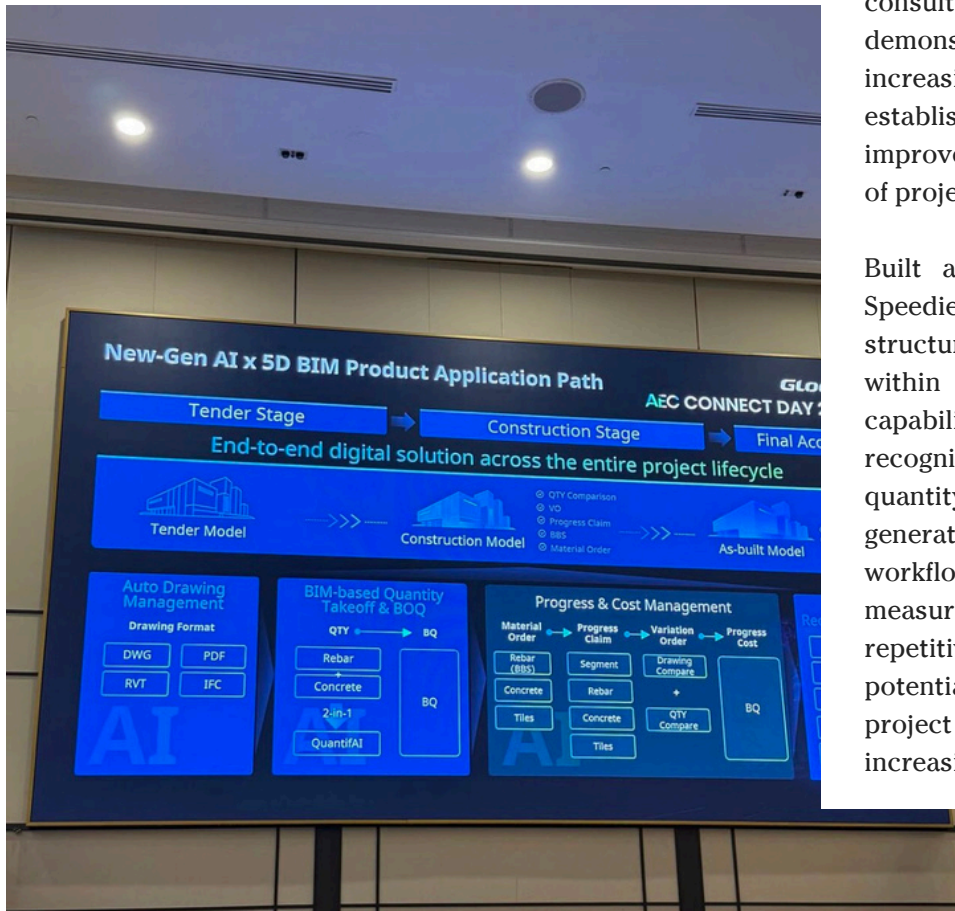
PREPARING THE PROFESSION FOR AI-ENABLED PRACTICE

Through continued engagement with technology providers and the wider construction ecosystem, RISM can play an important role in ensuring that the profession remains responsive to technological change while preserving the professional judgement, ethics and commercial expertise that define Quantity Surveying practice.



Members of the Royal Institution of Surveyors Malaysia (RISM) participated in the event, reflecting the Institution's continued engagement with technological developments that are shaping the future of the surveying profession.

QUANTIFAI: BRINGING AI INTO QUANTITY TAKEOFF



A key highlight of AEC Connect Day 2026 was the official Malaysian launch of Glodon QuantifAI, a next-generation AI-powered quantity takeoff solution developed to support Quantity Surveyors, estimators, consultants and contractors. The launch demonstrated how artificial intelligence is increasingly being integrated into established Quantity Surveying workflows to improve productivity, accuracy and the use of project information.

Built around the principles of “Simpler, Speedier and Sharper,” QuantifAI integrates structural and architectural quantity takeoff within a single 2-in-1 platform. Its capabilities include AI-based drawing recognition, smart modelling, automated quantity takeoff, model review, BOQ generation and BIM-to-deliverable workflows. By automating parts of the measurement process and reducing repetitive tasks, the technology has the potential to streamline workflows and allow project teams to respond more efficiently to increasingly complex project requirements.

The introduction of QuantifAI is particularly relevant to the Quantity Surveying profession, as it demonstrates how AI can complement rather than replace professional expertise. By supporting time-intensive activities such as quantity takeoff, drawing interpretation, data processing and the preparation of measurement outputs, AI-enabled tools can help Quantity Surveyors work more efficiently while reducing the amount of time spent on repetitive tasks.

This creates greater opportunity for Quantity Surveyors to focus on areas where professional knowledge and judgement remain essential, including cost analysis, commercial strategy, procurement, value management, risk assessment, contract administration and strategic decision-making. The ability to interpret information, understand project context, assess commercial implications and provide sound professional advice will continue to distinguish the role of the Quantity Surveyor, even as digital tools become more sophisticated.

The development also reflects the broader transformation of Quantity Surveying practice towards a more digitally enabled, analytical and advisory role. Future-ready Quantity Surveyors will need to combine strong technical and commercial competencies with digital literacy, data interpretation skills and an understanding of how AI-generated outputs should be reviewed and validated. Rather than diminishing the profession, technologies such as QuantifAI have the potential to strengthen the value of Quantity Surveyors by enabling them to contribute more strategically across the project lifecycle.

For RISM, this transformation also reinforces the importance of preparing practitioners and future graduates for changing industry expectations.

Courtesy visit to the High Commission of Malaysia in Colombo

In conjunction with the PAQS Congress 2026 in Colombo, Sri Lanka, delegates from RISM paid a courtesy visit to the High Commission of Malaysia in Colombo.



The visit provided an opportunity for the RISM delegation to share updates on the Malaysian surveying profession, particularly the role and development of Quantity Surveyors, as well as RISM's ongoing engagement within the regional and international surveying community. The meeting also provided a valuable platform to exchange views on strengthening professional networks, international collaboration and opportunities for greater engagement between Malaysia and Sri Lanka in the built environment sector. The visit reflected RISM's continued commitment to promoting the Malaysian surveying profession internationally and building stronger connections with Malaysian representatives and professional communities abroad. RISM extends its sincere appreciation to the High Commission of Malaysia in Colombo for the warm welcome and hospitality extended to the delegation.



Pacific Association of Quantity Surveyors (PAQS) Congress 2026

The Pacific Association of Quantity Surveyors (PAQS) Annual Congress 2026 brought together Quantity Surveying professionals, academics, researchers and industry leaders from across the Asia-Pacific and beyond in Sri Lanka from 24th to 25th August 2026. This prestigious annual gathering provided an important platform for the profession to exchange knowledge, strengthen international networks and explore emerging developments shaping the future of Quantity Surveying and the wider built environment.

“Constructing the Evolution: Unleashing the Human Intelligence,”

The Congress placed a strong emphasis on the continuing importance of human expertise, professional judgement and innovation amid rapid technological transformation. Discussions explored how Quantity Surveyors and built environment professionals can respond to evolving industry demands while embracing digitalisation, artificial intelligence, sustainability and new ways of working. The theme also highlighted the importance of balancing technological advancement with the distinctly human capabilities of critical thinking, creativity, collaboration, leadership and professional judgement. The Congress attracted delegates representing PAQS member countries and regions including Malaysia, Singapore, Australia, New Zealand, China, Hong Kong, Japan, Indonesia, Brunei, the Philippines, Sri Lanka and South Africa.

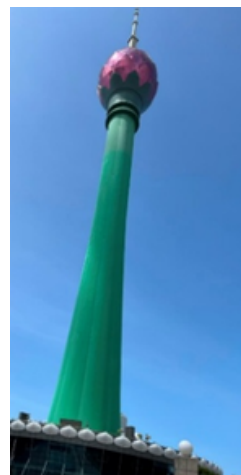


YOUNG QS PROGRAMME

The PAQS Young Quantity Surveyors Group (YQSG) Programme 2026 was held in conjunction with the PAQS Congress 2026 in Colombo, Sri Lanka. The programme brought together 36 delegates from 12 PAQS member associations, including three representatives from YQS RISM Malaysia, providing an important platform for networking, knowledge-sharing and regional collaboration among young quantity surveyors. Day 1 was hosted at the historic Galle Face Hotel, Colombo, beginning with a traditional oil lamp-lighting ceremony and welcoming addresses by PAQS and IQSSL representatives.



Ice-breaking and networking activities followed, creating a friendly environment for delegates from Malaysia, Sri Lanka, Singapore, the Philippines, Hong Kong, Brunei, Japan, Indonesia, China, New Zealand, Australia and South Africa to build professional connections. A major highlight was the member association presentations on “Harnessing AI and Digital Technology for Smart Construction,” reflecting the PAQS Congress 2026 theme, “Constructing the Evolution: Unleashing Human Intelligence.” Each delegation shared developments and experiences relating to artificial intelligence, digitalisation and emerging technologies within quantity surveying and the wider construction industry. On Day 2, delegates explored Colombo through a city tour featuring prominent landmarks including Galle Face Green, Colombo Lotus Tower, Jami Ul-Alfar Mosque, Independence Square and Gangaramaya Temple. The tour offered delegates an appreciation of Colombo’s cultural heritage, architecture and ongoing transformation as a major regional city.





RISM was strongly represented throughout the PAQS committee and board meetings, reflecting the Institute's continued leadership, active participation and commitment to advancing the Quantity Surveying profession at the regional level.

PAQS Board

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Sr Ts. Masnizan Che Mat
Sr Nazir Muhammad Nor
Sr Saravanan A/L Subramaniam
Sr Kwan Hock Hai

Education and Accreditation Committee

Sr Wan Aion Zuraiha
Sr Ts. Masnizan Che Mat
Sr Saravanan A/L Subramaniam

Research Committee

Assoc. Prof. Sr Dr. Umi Kalsum Zolkafli @ Zulkifly
Sr Dr. Loo Siaw Chuong (Angeline)

Sustainability Committee

Sr Azury Kamaruddin
Sr Ong Hock Tek

Digitalisation Committee

Sr Aminudin Yahia
Sr Sharifah Noraini Noreen Syed Ibrahim Al
Jamalullail
Sr Quek Jin Keat

Young QS Group

Sr Mohd Syazwan Samsudin
Sr Goh Chuan Yang
Sr Muhammad Hafizuddin bin Idris

Communications Committee

Sr Norhisham Ghani

PAQS COMMITTEE MEETINGS

The momentum of PAQS Congress 2026 continued with a series of important internal PAQS committee and leadership meetings held alongside the Congress programme in Sri Lanka. These sessions brought together representatives from member countries to exchange updates, review ongoing initiatives and discuss regional priorities across key areas including education, digitalisation, research, sustainability and professional development. The meetings provided a valuable platform for aligning future directions, strengthening cross-border collaboration and identifying new opportunities to advance the Quantity Surveying profession across the Asia-Pacific region.



PAQS BOARD MEETINGS

Day 3 of PAQS Congress 2026 continued with the official PAQS Board Meeting at Cinnamon Life, Colombo, bringing together regional leaders and representatives from member countries across the Asia-Pacific. The meeting provided an important platform to review key professional and technical developments, align priorities on international standards, and strengthen collaboration across the PAQS community. Discussions also looked ahead to future PAQS Congresses in Qingdao and Hong Kong, reinforcing the Association's continued commitment to regional cooperation and the advancement of the Quantity Surveying profession.



The Board Meeting also reflected PAQS's important role as a regional platform for bringing together professional institutions with a shared commitment to advancing Quantity Surveying practice. Through open dialogue and collective decision-making, member countries were able to contribute to the future direction of the Association while ensuring that regional priorities remain aligned with broader international developments affecting the profession. The meeting concluded with a renewed sense of shared purpose among PAQS member countries. By bringing together leaders from across the region in one forum, the Board Meeting reinforced PAQS's commitment to building stronger professional connections, promoting mutual recognition and advancing the Quantity Surveying profession through sustained regional cooperation.





More than a formal social occasion, the President's Dinner provided an important opportunity for delegates to continue the conversations and relationships built throughout the Congress in a more informal environment. Regional leaders exchanged ideas, reflected on shared professional challenges and opportunities, and strengthened the sense of fellowship that continues to underpin the PAQS community. The evening highlighted the value of personal connections in sustaining long-term collaboration among member organisations and professionals across different countries. The exclusive, invitation-only event was complemented by breathtaking panoramic views of the Colombo skyline, creating a striking backdrop for an evening of celebration and camaraderie.



The President's Dinner proved to be a fitting conclusion to a significant day of leadership discussions and regional engagement. It combined professional fellowship, cultural appreciation and celebration, reinforcing the strong bonds among PAQS member countries and leaving delegates with lasting memories of Colombo and the warm hospitality of the Sri Lankan hosts.

THE PRESIDENT'S DINNER

Following the conclusion of the PAQS Board Meeting, Day 3 of PAQS Congress 2026 ended on an elegant and memorable note with the PAQS President's Dinner, held under the stars at the spectacular rooftop of Virticle by Jetwing. Set high above Colombo, the evening brought together PAQS leaders, executive delegates and representatives from across the Asia-Pacific region in a relaxed yet distinguished setting that encouraged meaningful conversations, professional networking and stronger cross-border connections. More than a formal social occasion, the President's Dinner provided an important opportunity for delegates to continue the conversations and relationships built throughout the Congress in a more informal environment.



Adding a distinctive Sri Lankan cultural touch to the evening were captivating traditional fire dance performances, which brought energy, colour and excitement to the rooftop setting. The performances offered delegates an opportunity to experience part of Sri Lanka's rich cultural heritage while celebrating the spirit of international friendship that defines the PAQS Congress.

OFFICIAL OPENING CEREMONY BY THE SRI LANKAN PRIME MINISTER

The official opening ceremony was graced by the Chief Guest, Sri Lankan Prime Minister Dr Harini Amarasuriya, whose presence added significance to the occasion. In her address, she highlighted the important role of modern infrastructure in supporting long-term national development, economic resilience and social progress. Her remarks reinforced the wider responsibility of built environment professionals in shaping infrastructure that is not only technically sound, but also responsive to the evolving needs of society and the economy.



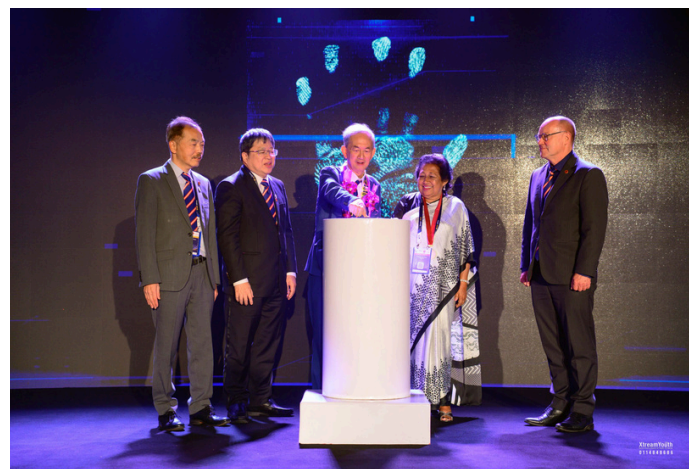
Distinguished keynote speakers including Prof Charles Egbu, Dr Eugene Seah and Prof Janaka Ruwanpura shared perspectives on digital transformation, artificial intelligence, innovation and the changing role of Quantity Surveyors in an increasingly complex and technology-enabled built environment.



Another significant highlight of the morning was the launch of the PAQS 30th Anniversary Commemorative Book, marking an important milestone in the Association's history.



The Congress placed strong emphasis on the relationship between human expertise and rapidly advancing technologies





TECHNICAL PRESENTATION PARALLEL SESSIONS

The afternoon programme transitioned into a series of technical presentation parallel sessions, providing a platform for researchers, academics and practitioners to share new knowledge, research findings and industry experiences. Delegates engaged with a diverse range of topics addressing contemporary challenges and opportunities in Quantity Surveying, construction and the wider built environment.

A strong focus throughout the sessions was placed on the integration of artificial intelligence, digital technologies and human expertise. Presentations explored how emerging technologies can enhance decision-making, productivity and professional practice while preserving the essential role of human judgement, ethical responsibility and professional accountability. The sessions generated lively exchanges among presenters and delegates, creating valuable opportunities for discussion, knowledge sharing and potential research collaboration. The first full day of the main Congress programme successfully set the tone for PAQS 2026, combining high-level leadership perspectives, thought-provoking keynote addresses, research dissemination and professional dialogue. It reinforced a central message of the Congress: that the future of the Quantity Surveying profession will depend not only on technological advancement, but on the ability of professionals to harness technology intelligently while retaining the uniquely human qualities that continue to define trusted professional practice.



GALA DINNER CELEBRATES CULTURE AND FRIENDSHIP

The PAQS Congress 2026 Gala Dinner in Colombo, Sri Lanka brought together delegates from member associations across the PAQS for an evening of cultural celebration and international friendship. One of the highlights of the evening was the cultural performances presented by delegates from the various PAQS member associations.



Delegates proudly showcased elements of their respective national cultures through traditional performances, music, attire and dance, creating a lively and memorable atmosphere. The performances reflected the rich cultural diversity represented within the PAQS community while also demonstrating the strong camaraderie that exists among quantity surveying professionals across different countries. For the RISM delegation, the Gala Dinner provided another meaningful opportunity to represent Malaysia on the international stage while strengthening friendships and professional relationships.





CELEBRATING MALAYSIAN EXCELLENCE AT THE PAQS AWARDS

A particularly proud moment for RISM and Malaysia came during the prestigious PAQS Awards presentation, where Malaysian Quantity Surveyors received significant recognition on the international stage. Sr Dr Loo Siaw Chuing (Angeline) and Assoc. Prof. Sr Dr Saipol Bari Abd Karim were both honoured with the PAQS Academic Excellence Award 2026, recognising their outstanding contributions to academic excellence, research and the advancement of Quantity Surveying education and knowledge.



Adding further distinction to Malaysia's achievements at PAQS Congress 2026, Sr Dr Loo Siaw Chuing, Assoc. Prof. Sr Dr Saipol Bari Abd Karim and Assoc. Prof. Sr Dr Umi Kalsum Zolkafli @ Zulkifly were also members of the international research team that received the prestigious Best Research Paper Award for the paper entitled "Evaluating Project Outcomes and Conflict Levels Across Construction Procurement Methods: Preliminary Results from an International PAQS Study."

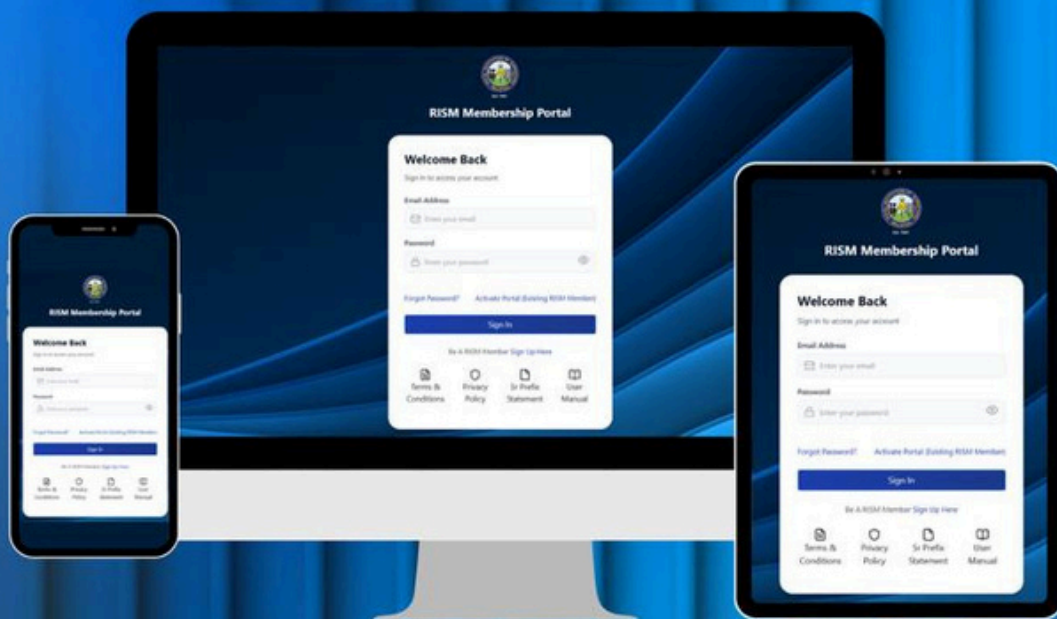


The award-winning research was a truly international PAQS collaboration, bringing together researchers from several member countries to examine construction procurement methods, project outcomes and levels of conflict across different contexts. The recognition demonstrates the value of cross-border research collaboration within PAQS and highlights how collective research can generate knowledge with relevance beyond individual national markets. For RISM, the awards represented an especially meaningful achievement.

Having Malaysian representatives recognised for both academic excellence and collaborative international research demonstrates the strength of Malaysia's contribution to the regional Quantity Surveying knowledge community.



Introducing the New RISM Membership Portal



<https://portal.rism.org.my>

Welcome to the new RISM Membership Portal! Experience a refreshed design, smoother navigation and enhanced functionality.

For further enquiries, please contact:

RISM Membership Department

 +6018-2356366

 +603-79548358 / 79551773 / 79569728

 membership@rism.org.my / admin@rism.org.my



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