

# Awareness of Green Building Index (GBI) Implementation among Malaysian Contractors

Zarith Sufia Azlan<sup>1</sup>, Nur Syamimi Zulkefli<sup>2</sup>, Nurhaizan Zainudin<sup>3</sup>, Dr. Puteri Fadzline Tamyez<sup>4</sup>  
Faculty of Industrial Management, Universiti Malaysia Pahang (UMP) Malaysia  
zarithsufia@ump.edu.my<sup>1</sup>, nursyamimi@ump.edu.my<sup>2</sup>, nurhaizan@ump.edu.my<sup>3</sup>, fadzline@ump.edu.my<sup>4</sup>

## **Abstract**

*The Green Building Index (GBI) is Malaysia's industry recognized green rating system for buildings which has been launched to promote sustainability in the built environment. The application of GBI has contributed varied perception and attitude among key players in the Malaysia construction industry mainly by the contractors. Two fields of studies, survey and interview have been conducted in this study to investigate the level of awareness, acceptance and application by the Malaysian contractors in adopting GBI system. Presently, the results indicate that majority of the respondents have lack of experienced in green building projects particularly in handling GBI's rated project. This is due to lower level of understanding on the green building rating systems especially the GBI itself and concerned over high cost to their project. It is recommended that the GBI should be compulsory in rated all buildings in Malaysia and actions are needed to increase knowledge towards this system to all levels of contractors.*

**Keywords:** Contractors, Green Building Index (GBI), Green Project, Green Rating Systems, Malaysian Construction Industry, Sustainable Construction

## **1.0 Introduction**

Construction industry has been proven as the biggest contributor to greenhouse gases (GHG) emissions, accounting for up to 50% of global carbon dioxide emissions (Maltzman and Shirley, 2011). This is because the development of construction industry consumes 40% of the materials inflowing the global economy and generates 40–50% of the global output of GHG emissions and the agents of acid rain (Khasreen et al, 2009). However in this era of globalization, development of construction industry seems unavoidable. In order to fulfill the needs of living things and facilitate population growths parallel with environment protection and prevention, various indications had been approached by people around the world including sustainable development followed by sustainable construction (Shafii et al, 2006).

Due to establishment of various sustainable approaches, numerous green building rating systems have been promoted to assess the green building criteria for construction. Green building rating systems are able to assist key roles of green building projects in understanding the impact of each design choice and solution (Riley et al, 2003). Green building rating system by its nature and role is very dependent upon location and environment (Chan, 2009). Malaysia's very own green building rating system has been launched by the government and is known as Green Building Index (GBI). GBI is Malaysia's industry recognized green rating system for buildings to promote sustainability in the built environment and raise awareness about the environmental issues and responsibility for the future generations (Tan, 2009). These efforts will provide fresh challenge for the Malaysia construction industry to practice sustainable development and at the same time providing highest quality of affordable green building.