

**IMPACT OF THE COST OVERRUN FACTORS  
ON THE PROJECT DELAYS IN  
CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY**

**NOOR ELINAH BINTI SAILIN**

**B. ENG(HONS.) CIVIL ENGINEERING**

**UNIVERSITI MALAYSIA PAHANG**



## **SUPERVISOR'S DECLARATION**

I hereby declare that I have checked this thesis/project and in my opinion, this thesis/project is adequate in terms of scope and quality for the award of the Bachelor Degree of Civil Engineering

---

(Supervisor's Signature)

Full Name : EN. MOHAMMAD SYAMSYUL HAIRI BIN SAAD

Position :

Date :



## **STUDENT'S DECLARATION**

I hereby declare that the work in this thesis is based on my original work except for quotations and citations which have been duly acknowledged. I also declare that it has not been previously or concurrently submitted for any other degree at Universiti Malaysia Pahang or any other institutions.

---

(Student's Signature)

Full Name : NOOR ELINAH BINTI SAILIN

ID Number : AA14107

Date :

IMPACT OF THE COST OVERRUN FACTORS ON THE PROJECT DELAYS IN  
CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY

NOOR ELINAH BINTI SAILIN

Thesis submitted in fulfillment of the requirements  
for the award of the  
Bachelor Degree in Civil Engineering

Faculty of Civil Engineering and Earth Resources  
UNIVERSITI MALAYSIA PAHANG

DEC 2018

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

“In the name of Allah, the most gracious, the most compassionate”

With the greatest blessing of Allah, finally I have accomplished this final year project as a requirement to graduate and acquire in a Bachelor of Civil Engineering from Universiti Malaysia Pahang.

I would like to take this golden opportunity to express my sincere gratitude to my supervisor, Mr. Mohammad Syamsyul Hairi bin Saad. His ideas, invaluable guidance, continuous support and constant support in making this research possible and improved my piece of work. I really appreciate her consistent support from the first day of my thesis progress and I also sincerely thanks for the time spent correcting my many mistakes.

My sincere thanks to my lovely parents, Mr Sailin bin Jun and Mrs Newah binti Jaim and also my beloved sibling. Their continuous moral support and pure blessing have brought me all this way.

In addition, I would also like to thanks all my beloved friends especially Nur Munirah binti Anuar who have provided directly and indirectly assistance to this study.

Last but not least, I would like to thank all of them who were with me throughout this project. I sincerely appreciate this valuable favors from all of you.

## **ABSTRAK**

Kelewatan dan melebihi kos merupakan masalah kerap dalam industri pembinaan banyak negara maju dan membangun. Penjimatan kos dan persembahan masa biasanya penting kepada semua pihak yang terlibat dalam projek pembinaan yang pemilik, kontraktor, dan subkontraktor. Penyebab utama pertikaian dalam projek pembinaan melibatkan kelewatan dan kegagalan untuk menyelesaikan kerja dalam kos dan kerangka waktu tertentu. Tujuan kajian ini adalah untuk menilai faktor-faktor yang menjurus kepada penambahbaikan masa (kelewatan) dan overruns kos dalam projek pembinaan di Malaysia. Sejumlah 36 faktor telah dikenal pasti dari kajian terdahulu. Pengumpulan data telah dijalankan menggunakan kaji selidik soal selidik berstruktur. 50 responden daripada industri pembinaan di Malaysia mengambil bahagian dalam soal selidik tinjauan. Terdapat dua pemboleh ubah dalam kajian ini yang merupakan pemboleh ubah bebas (faktor-faktor yang menelan kos) dan pemboleh ubah bergantung (kelewatan Projek). Hasilnya menunjukkan bahawa semua faktor yang menelan kos mempunyai hubungan positif dengan kelewatan projek. Mencari dalam kajian ini memberi manfaat kepada majikan untuk memahami betapa pentingnya faktor kos yang terlalu besar untuk kelewatan projek, serta untuk mengelakkan berlakunya daripada berlaku dalam industri pembinaan.

## **ABSTRACT**

Delays and cost overruns are evidently frequent problems in the construction industries of many developed and developing countries. Cost saving and time performances are usually essential to all parties who are involved in a construction project that is owner, contractor, and subcontractor. The main causes of disputes in construction projects involve delay and failure to complete the work in the specified cost and time frame. The purpose of this study is to assess factors leading to time overruns (delays) and cost overruns in construction projects in the Malaysia. A total of 36 factors were identified from previous studies. The data collections were carried out using structured questionnaire survey. 50 respondents from the construction industry in Malaysia participated in the survey questionnaire. There are two variable in this study which are independent variables (Cost overrun factors) and dependent variable (Project delay).The results indicate that the all the cost overrun factors has a positive relationships with the project delay. Finding in this study is beneficial to employer to understand how important cost overruns factors to project delay, as well as to prevent recurrences from happening in construction industry.

## TABLE OF CONTENT

<b>DECLARATION</b>	
<b>TITLE PAGE</b>	
<b>ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS</b>	<b>ii</b>
<b>ABSTRAK</b>	<b>iii</b>
<b>ABSTRACT</b>	<b>iv</b>
<b>TABLE OF CONTENT</b>	<b>v</b>
<b>LIST OF TABLES</b>	<b>viii</b>
<b>LIST OF FIGURES</b>	<b>ix</b>
<b>LIST OF SYMBOLS</b>	<b>x</b>
<b>LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS</b>	<b>xi</b>
<b>CHAPTER 1 INTRODUCTION</b>	<b>1</b>
1.1 Introduction	1
1.2 Problem Statement	2
1.3 Objectives	3
1.4 Research Framework	4
1.5 Scope of study	4
1.6 Significant of study	4
1.7 Thesis Structure	5
<b>CHAPTER 2 LITERATURE REVIEW</b>	<b>6</b>
2.1 Construction Industry in Malaysia	6
2.2 Cost Overrun	7



2.2.1	Definition of Cost Overrun	7
2.2.2	Existing Studies of Cost Overrun Factors	7
2.2.3	Financial Factors	10
2.2.4	Management Factors	11
2.2.5	Construction Item Factors	12
2.2.6	Environmental Factors	13
2.2.7	Impact of Cost Overrun to the Different Parties	13
2.3	Project Delay	13
2.3.1	Definition of Project Delay	13
2.3.2	Project Life Cycle	14
2.4	Impact of The Cost Overrun Factors to The Project Delay	16
2.5	Summary	16
<b>CHAPTER 3 METHODOLOGY</b>		<b>18</b>
3.1	Introduction	18
3.2	Data collection	18
3.3	Questionnaire Design	19
3.4	Software Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS)	20
3.5	Data Analysis	20
3.6	Research Methodology Flow Chart	22
<b>CHAPTER 4 RESULTS AND DISCUSSION</b>		<b>23</b>
4.1	Introduction	23
4.2	Result of Questionnaire Analysis	24
4.2.1	Population characteristic	24
4.2.2	Cost overrun factor in construction project	29

4.2.3	The Ways to overcome or reduce the impact of cost overrun and time delays in construction	34
4.3	Summary	36
<b>CHAPTER 5 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION</b>		<b>38</b>
5.1	Introduction	38
5.2	Assessment Finding Review	39
5.2.1	Finding 1 : To identify the time delay factors and cost overrun factors in construction project.	39
5.2.2	Finding 2 : To identify the ways to overcome or reduce impact of cost overrun factor and time delays in construction.	42
5.3	Conclusion	43
5.4	Recommendations	44
<b>REFERENCES</b>		<b>45</b>
<b>APPENDIX A Questionnaire</b>		<b>47</b>

## LIST OF TABLES

Table 1-1 Real case of project delays in construction project	3
Table 2-1 Summary of Cost Overrun Factors Studies of Previous Researchers	10
Table 4-1 Financial factors that Affect the Cost Overrun	29
Table 4-2 Management factors that affect the Cost Overrun	30
Table 4-3 Construction Item factors (material/equipment) that affects the Cost Overrun	32
Table 4-4 Environmental factors that affects the Cost Overrun	33
Table 4-5 The Ways to overcome or reduce the impact of cost overrun and time delays in construction	34

## LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1-1 Framework shows that Relationship between Cost Overrun Factors and Project Delay	4
Figure 3-1 Flow chart of research methodology	22
Figure 4-1 Bar chart for the gender of respondents	25
Figure 4-2 Distribution of the Respondents by Stakeholder Category	25
Figure 4-3 Bar chart for the profession of respondents	26
Figure 4-4 Pie chart for the years of experience of respondents	27
Figure 4-5 Pie chart for the project that has been handle by the respondent	27
Figure 4-6 Pie chart for the size of organization of respondents	28

## LIST OF SYMBOLS

$A_i$	Constant expressing weight given to $i$
$X_i$	Variable that expressing the frequency of degree

## **LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS**

SPSS                      Software Statistical Package for Social Sciences

## CHAPTER 1

### INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 Introduction

The key success indicators of construction management system(s) include completing the project with cost and time, within the planned budget and duration, and within the required quality, safety, and environmental limits. These goals are interrelated where each of them is affecting and affected by the others. An accurate cost estimating and scheduling should be sought in order to meet the overall budget and time deadline of a project.

The inability to finish project within completion time and budget to be a long lasting worldwide problem and is worsening. Angelo and Reina (2005) mentioned that the cost overruns are a risky and crucial problem. They also state that the problems of cost overruns and project delay are become a trend in the worldwide and it is more happened in developing countries (Angelo & Reina, 2002). As in the developing country, the construction industry is continues growing, so the planning and budgeting problem in construction project definitely will happen. It is a common problem of a project is not to be completed on time and within the budget (Apolot, Alinaitwe, & Tindiwensi, 2011). Hence, it is important to determine the factors that contribute to the cost overruns, take action to prevent and reduce these issues in the future.

There are many sources of uncertainty in construction projects, which include the performance of construction parties, resources availability, environmental conditions, involvement of other parties, contractual relations, etc. As a result of these sources, construction projects may face problems that cause delay(s) in the project completion time.

Time contingency is used to guarantee the completion time of either an activity or a project. Due to the unique nature of construction projects, cost overrun and schedule overrun uncertainty are essential for true budget and scheduling, which should be flexible enough to accommodate changes without negatively affecting the overall cost and duration. It is also essential to allocate a contingency value to both cost and time.

There are situations where there could be delays in activities, whether they are within the critical path or not, which result in a delay in the overall project duration. These delays will consequently have a negative impact on the quality, budget, and might be safety of a project. Therefore, estimating cost and time contingencies are seen as a prime factor in achieving a successful construction project. Although several industrial sectors developed and used software for estimating time and cost contingencies in order to minimize delays and avoid being over budget, yet limited efforts are reported in the literature in the area of predicting time contingency in construction projects.

## **1.2 Problem Statement**

In the construction industry, the aim of project control is to ensure that projects finish on time, within cost and achieve other project objectives. A success of any project can be assessed based on the performance of cost, time, quality and safety of the project (Memon, Rahman, Zainun, & Karim, 2014).

Poor time and cost performance are critical issues facing by today's construction industry in Malaysia, due to construction companies failed to achieve project objective in the targeted time and targeted cost (Enshassi, Al · Najjar, & Kumaraswamy, 2009).

The critical issues facing by Malaysia is due to the lack of concern by project manager in the construction issues; and there are less of studied on the impact of the cost overrun factors to the project delay, lack of updated information about how cost overrun factors can bring impacts to the project delay in different stages (Ibrahim, Roy, Ahmed, & Imtiaz, 2010).

The statements above can be concluded as both cost overrun and project delay are issues that are directly can lead a project to failure. If the problems are untreated, it



will bring unanticipated and unexpected impact to the company as well as the construction industry (Mohammed, 2010). Therefore, project manager and site contractor need pay serious attention to alleviate it (Memon, Rahman, Asmi, & Azis, 2012).

Thus, this study is attempted to highlight the factors of cost overruns in the construction industry, and investigate the impact of the factors of the project delay in the construction industry in Malaysia. Hence, it can help contractor and project manager to understand the importance of cost and time in a project, alleviate financial and time related issues in order to make the project successful.

### REAL CASE PROJECT DELAYS IN CONSTRUCTION PROJECT

Table 1-1 Real case of project delays in construction project

<b>Date</b>	<b>Construction Project</b>	<b>Location</b>
30 November 2017	Mega projects	Bintulu, Serawak
03 February 2016	Project "Rumah Keluarga Angkatan Tentera"	Kuala Lumpur

### 1.3 Objectives

There are three main objectives of this research:

- I. To study the time delay factors and cost overrun factors in construction project.
- II. To obtain the information about the impact of cost overrun on the project delays through questionnaire design.
- III. To analyse the impact of time delay and cost overrun of the project.

## REFERENCES

- Abd El-Karim, M. S. B. A., Mosa El Nawawy, O. A., & Abdel-Alim, A. M. (2015). Identification and assessment of risk factors affecting construction projects. *HBRC Journal*, 13(2), 202–216. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.hbrcj.2015.05.001>
- Apolot, R., Alinaitwe, H., & Tindiwensi, D. (2011). An Investigation into the Causes of Delay and Cost Overrun in Uganda's Public Sector Construction Projects. *Second International Conference ...*, 18(2), 305–312. Retrieved from <http://mak.ac.ug/documents/Makfiles/aet2011/Apolot.pdf>
- Cantarelli, C. C., Flyvbjerg, B., van Wee, B., & Molin, E. J. E. (2010). Lock-in and its influence on the project performance of large-scale transportation infrastructure projects: Investigating the way in which lock-in can emerge and affect cost overruns. *Environment and Planning B: Planning and Design*, 37(5), 792–807. <https://doi.org/10.1068/b36017>
- Enshassi, A., Al-Najjar, J., & Kumaraswamy, M. (2009). Delays and cost overruns in the construction projects in the Gaza Strip. *Journal of Financial Management of Property and Construction*, 14(2), 126–151. <https://doi.org/10.1108/13664380910977592>
- Ibrahim, A. R. Bin, Roy, M. H., Ahmed, Z., & Imtiaz, G. (2010). An investigation of the status of the Malaysian construction industry. *Benchmarking*, 17(2), 294–308. <https://doi.org/10.1002/fld.2309>
- Khan, R. A., Liew, M. S., & Ghazali, Z. Bin. (2014). Malaysian Construction Sector and Malaysia Vision 2020: Developed Nation Status. *Procedia - Social and Behavioral Sciences*, 109, 507–513. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.sbspro.2013.12.498>
- Memon, A. H., Rahman, I. A., Asmi, A., & Azis, A. (2012). Time and Cost Performance in Construction Projects in Southern and Central Time and Cost Performance in Construction Projects in Southern and Central Regions of Peninsular Malaysia, (May 2014), 52–57. <https://doi.org/10.11591/ijaas.v1i1.537>
- Memon, A. H., Rahman, I. A., Zainun, N. Y., & Karim, A. T. A. (2014). Web-based Risk Assessment Technique for Time and Cost Overrun (WRATTCO) – A Framework. *Procedia - Social and Behavioral Sciences*, 129, 178–185. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.sbspro.2014.03.664>
- Mohammed. (2010). ELEMENT OF COST OVERRUNS INVOLVED IN CONSTRUCTION PROJECT Mahdi Mohammed Abdullah Abkar.
- Niazi, G. A., & Painting, N. (2017). Significant Factors Causing Cost Overruns in the Construction Industry in Afghanistan. *Procedia Engineering*, 182, 510–517. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.proeng.2017.03.145>

- Olawale, Y. A., & Sun, M. (2010). Cost and time control of construction projects: Inhibiting factors and mitigating measures in practice. *Construction Management and Economics*, 28(5), 509–526. <https://doi.org/10.1080/01446191003674519>
- Ramanathan, C., Narayanan, S. P., & Idrus, A. B. (2012). Construction delays causing risks on time and cost - A critical review. *Australasian Journal of Construction Economics and Building*, 12(1), 37–57. <https://doi.org/10.5130/ajceb.v12i1.2330>
- Sambasivan, M., & Soon, Y. W. (2007). Causes and effects of delays in Malaysian construction industry. *International Journal of Project Management*, 25(5), 517–526. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ijproman.2006.11.007>
- UK Essays. (2013). Causes And Effects Of Delays in Projects, 1831–1837. Retrieved from <https://www.ukessays.com/dissertation/examples/construction/causes-and-effects-of-delay-of-projects.php>
- Will, W., Take, I. T., Establish, T. O., Education, E., & All, F. O. R. (2008). March 2008. *Technology and Engineering Teacher*, (March).
- Abdullah, M. R., Azis, A. A. A., & Rahman, I. A. (2011). Potential effects on large mara construction projects due to construction delay. *International Journal of Integrated Engineering*, 1(2), 53–62
- Abdullah, M. R., Rahman, I. A., & Azis, A. A. A. (2010). Causes of delay in MARA management procurement construction projects. *Journal of Surveying, Construction and Property*, 1(1), 123–138.
- Ali, A. S., & Kamaruzzaman, S. N. (2010). Cost performance for building construction projects in Klang Valley. *Journal of Building Performance*, 1(1), 110–118.
- Al-Kharashi, A., & Skitmore, M. (2009). Causes of delays in Saudi Arabian public sector construction projects. *Construction Management and Economics*, 27(1), 3–23.
- Doloi, H. (2013). Cost overruns and failure in project management-understanding the roles of key stakeholders in construction projects. *Journal of Construction Engineering and Management*, 139(3), 267–279.
- Ejaz, N., Ali, I., & Tahir, M. (2013). Assessment of delays and cost overruns during construction projects in Pakistan.