On 4 and 5 March 2016, the Malaysia Green Building Confederation (MGBC) had successfully organised the International Urban Sustainability & Green Building Conference 2016 in the Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre (KLCC). This was the start of an international event which gathered international and local speakers to share their perspectives on sustainability in their respective fields of expertise. There were about 270 participants including students, local experts, researchers, Green practitioners, developers, contractors, professional architects and engineers and international speakers from Singapore, India, Australia, Sweden, Thailand, Brunei, China, Canada, USA, Indonesia and Hong Kong for this two-day event. There were seven keynote addresses and three parallel sessions presented by various well known figures from the local and international arenas.

The event also presented the PAM-MGBC-Ajiya Design Competition by Past President of MGBC Ar Von Kok Leong. This event was sponsored by Ajiya Berhad, Akzo Nobel, Nippon Paint and Pentens as well as supported by PAM, ACEM, IEM, CIOB, ASHRAE Malaysia Chapter, AEE Malaysia Chapter MACRA, MIID, MAH, PPK and GBI.

In support of the World Green Building Council, the theme for this inaugural event was Better Places for People. It is a global campaign that aims to create a world in which buildings support healthier and happier lives for those who occupy them. The campaign, led by the World Green Building Council, aims to raise awareness of how buildings impact upon health and well-being, and encourage those who design, build, own, occupy, operate or sell them to shape buildings for the benefit of people.

Building upon evidence linking office design with health and well-being outcomes for employees, the campaign focuses on a range of building types including retail malls, hospitals, offices and residential buildings. It will also move beyond simply linking design and outcomes by demonstrating how maximising health and well-being in buildings can present a win-win situation for both businesses and the environment.

On 4 March 2016, Malaysia’s Green Building Index (GBI) has hit the 150-million-square-foot mark of gross floor area in GBI-certified buildings. This is a 50-percent leap from its 100-million-square-foot milestone achieved two years ago, making it the first and largest gross floor area certified by a single Green certification organisation in Malaysia. This achievement is a combination of more than 300 certified projects out of more than 700 registered projects to date. The announcement was made at the 150-million-square-foot commemoration dinner of Certified Green Buildings.
Country into a Green community by 2030,” commented Tan Sri Peter Chin. "Green technology by 2020 and subsequently develop the global hub for Green technology by 2020 and subsequently develop the strategic engine for socio-economic growth in Malaysia, GBI cements preservation and performance of each project is achieved via standards that are internationally recognised. The successful implementation of GBI bespoke tools, newer and upgraded versions of the tools have been introduced to ensure that GBI stays relevant and ahead of the industry’s requirements. To date, GBI has successfully introduced 15 bespoke tools, developed and enhanced to address the sustainability requirements and to ensure that sustainability is preserved and performance of each project is achieved via standards that are internationally recognised.

“GBI certifications are based on the performance of the building, as to whether each building conforms to the criteria requirements and efficiency index. What is designed may not be translated to what is built. At GBI, prior to final certification, we ensure that these buildings perform as claimed, through our detailed site inspections and rigorous assessment conducted by our professional certifiers, all of whom are practising professionals. GBI-certified buildings meet both the international standard of Green rating as well as its physical performance of the building,” added Chan Seong Aun.

“Parallel to the sanction to catalyse Green technology deployment as a strategic engine for socio-economic growth in Malaysia, GBI cements its commitment in ensuring that the four pillars of the National Green Technology Policy 2009 is being realised. With such a strong organisation and accreditation body like GBI, it will propel Malaysia to position itself as a global hub for Green technology by 2020 and subsequently develop the country into a Green community by 2030,” commented Tan Sri Peter Chin.