

Developing Sustainable Procurement Framework for Malaysia Public Construction Procurement

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SUMMARY

The need to address sustainability in construction through procurement strategies is being actively discussed in developed countries as well as in developing countries. Government is often the single biggest client within a country, and governments can potentially use this purchasing power to deliver government objectives, including sustainability practices in construction. World Summit on Sustainable Development in 2002 has called for governments to 'promote public procurement policies that encourage development and diffusion of environmentally sound goods and services'. Developed countries such as United Kingdom, Australia and Japan have taken the lead in promoting sustainability practices in public procurement. The UK for example, has adopted a Sustainable Procurement Plan and set its goal 'to be recognised as amongst the leaders in sustainable procurement across EU member states'. A study was conducted to identify key elements and measures to formulate sustainable procurement framework for Malaysia. The formulation of this framework begins with critical review of public procurement policies of countries namely UK, Australia and Japan. Input from the review is used to develop a conceptual framework of sustainable public procurement for Malaysia which then tested via questionnaire-guided survey among Malaysia industry players. This paper discusses the findings from the survey in pursuit of identifying key elements of sustainable public procurement for Malaysia.