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Monday June 17, 2013

Good practice at construction site

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The collapse of the ramp linking to the Second Penang Bridge at Batu Maung is yet another accident at a construction site.

The Institution of Engineers, Malaysia (IEM) is concerned about the recent high incidents of accidents at construction sites which would appear to reflect the inadequate standard of safety practice in the construction industry.

The section of the ramp to the bridge that collapsed does not seem to be of some special design or construction technique that would require complex engineering works, which would have a higher chance to go wrong.

In fact, from the initial reports stated in the media, it would seem that the collapse could be due to inadequate support of the intersection ramp but this cannot be confirmed until the facts are available after investigations by the authorities.

In order to mitigate construction accidents, all aspects of design and construction procedures must be given due importance.

Good practices in accordance to acceptable standards are to be adopted.

In all engineering practices, not only workers' safety is necessary but that of public safety should also be top priority.

Providing adequate traffic diversion to circumvent the high risk areas is one such important practice.

Owners have to be aware that safety practices need to go hand in hand with the standard work methodology if unnecessary mishaps are to be avoided.

Specialists should be involved if new and complex technology is to be used.

IEM has been proactive in promoting various aspects of engineering practice, including issues of best practice and safety.

For example, the institution has a Position Paper on Scaffold and Temporary Works that was prepared in response to previous problems with formworks.

IEM stands ready to offer our technical inputs should the relevant authority decide that the institution be able to assist in their investigation.

IR. PROF DR JEFFREY CHIANG CHOONG LUIN

Honorary Secretary



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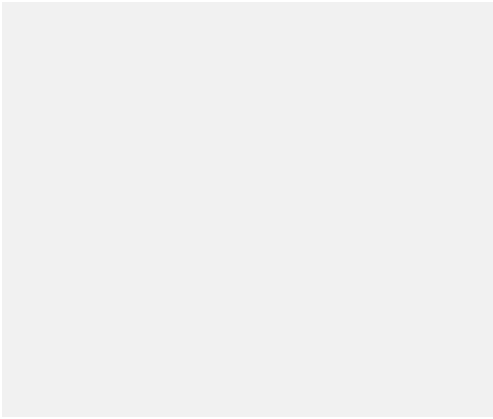


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