Editorial

This year marks the tenth year that Universiti Sains Malaysia has collaborated with CIBW 107 in producing the Journal of Construction in Developing Countries. During that time, it has made some notable achievements including the indexing by Scopus. With increase in manuscript submissions, the number of articles included in each issue had to be increased. The journal continues its emphasis on developing countries. Five nations are covered in this issue – Ghana, India, Bhutan, Malaysia, Nigeria and Pakistan – touching on a wide-range of issues.

The first paper by Mahamadu et al. focusses on the quality, safety and environmental (QSE) performance of Ghana's road construction which is said to be poor. By investigating two public road agencies using the mixed method approach, they found that synergy is low in procurement process. Effective management and realisation of QSE is also hindered by a general lack of know-how and experience in the use of modern and integrated procurement arrangement. They conclude by suggesting that an integrated management system approach be devised specifically for QSE management and monitoring, particularly for the front-end procurement processes.

Yadav and Ray explored the application of supply chain management in India's construction industry, using four flyover projects as the case study. They suggest that the seamless SCM model may be suited for developing countries by incorporating several features including strategic needs analysis, value management and an integrated information system. India has a major programme to upgrade and strengthen its highways and expressways. Their findings are therefore current and potentially have pragmatic value.

Hadikusumo and Tobgay identified common claim types and their causes for hydropower construction projects in Bhutan. By conducting an in-depth case study, they found that differing site conditions are the major contributor of impact and change claims. They also found that these claims can be settled by negotiation and arbitration. Their findings can bear national impact given that hydropower is a key contributor to the Bhutan's economy and national development.

Chai et al. used Structural Equation Modelling (SEM) to evaluate housing delay mitigation measures practised in Malaysia. 17 mitigation measures were extracted from the Principal Component Analysis, which were then classified as predictive, preventive, organisational or corrective. Preventive measures are the most influential for housing delivery delay. There is a major gap between housing supply and demand in Malaysia. Housing developers may find the results useful in hastening housing delivery.

Golizadeh and Namini developed an empirical model for predicting the significant characteristics of concrete that has been mixed with palm oil fuel ash (POFA) which would otherwise end up in landfills. This method does not require extraneous statistical equations, which are normally used in traditional prediction models such as linear regression. Adogbo et al. found that the barriers faced by

women in the construction industry in Nigeria are globally similar, though the traditional patriarchal system combined with cultural and religious dimensions compound these barriers. They produced a framework for attracting and retaining female graduates in the construction industry. The final paper by Chohan et al. identified 42 quality determinants for affordable housing in Pakistan which they labelled as Housing Quality Determinants (HQD). The HQD can help raise awareness among design professionals and end users to help them take the necessary measures to ensure quality in housing design.

Finally, this editorial board would like to express its gratitude to paper reviewers whose untiring effort has led to the publication of this issue. And to the paper contributors for choosing the journal as a publication outlet for their research works. Having successfully completed its first decade, may the journal add many more milestones in the years ahead.

Abdul Rashid Abdul Aziz, Universiti Sains Malaysia
Alfred Ngowi, Central University of Technology