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Malaysian entrepreneur heads Asia-Pacific Contractors Federation

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Malaysian entrepreneur Datuk Matthew Tee Kai Woon has been sworn-in as the 44th President of the International Federation of Asian and Western Pacific Contractors' Associations (IFAWPCA).

At 42, Tee who is the Group Executive Director of Bina Puri Holdings Berhad has earned the record of being the youngest to helm the regional organisation.

He is also the third Malaysian to head IFAWPCA and Malaysia's turn to chair it again will come two decades later as succession is by rotation among its 20 country members. The first Malaysian to head IFAWPCA was Malaysia's 50th richest man, Tan Sri Yeoh Tiong Lay, from YTL Corporation in 1983 and the second was the late Siah Kwee Mou in 1998.

Bina Puri Holdings Group is a public-listed conglomerate with diversified business interests, among others, in investment holdings, property development, highway concessionaire and hydro-electric generation.

Its flagship construction unit has extended its business ventures overseas to Thailand, Brunei, India, China, Russia, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Pakistan, Nepal and in Indonesia where the group operates nine hydro-electric power plants.

Tee's impressive record included being appointed for two consecutive terms as President of MBAM (Master Builders Association of Malaysia from 2012 to 2016). MBAM is the body that represents over 13,000 members that included construction-related tradesman's associations and big-time contractors that handled a collective 80 percent of the construction business in Malaysia.

At present, he sits in the Board of Advisory of CLAB as well as a Member of the National Science Council, a position nominated by the Prime Minister of Malaysia, for the term 2016-2017.

Tee, in his acceptance speech, pledged to do his best to uphold the trust and mandate by delegates from the 20 member countries present at the 43rd Convention held in Seoul on June 2.

He said his mission is to elevate this organisation to a higher level and pointed out that the road to continued success for IFAWPCA is grounded on the principles of partnership, trust and a deep sense of justice and responsibility.

"I will not limit my Presidency to presiding over meetings or reading statements; but it is my aim that I will also focus on strengthening the role of IFAWPCA and improving cooperation between IFAWPCA members, specialized agencies and other international and regional organizations related to the construction industry.

"I also aspire to act as a bridge in order to serve the interests of all IFAWPCA members as a whole. The focus of my efforts will be on building consensus on major global challenges facing IFAWPCA members and I definitely need your support and guidance to achieve this.

The delegates also elected MBAM Vice President Ir. Chuan Yeong Ming as IFAWPCA Secretary-General. The 44th IFAWPCA Convention 2018 with the theme; Strategic Alliance with Innovation and Human Capital, will be held in Kuala Lumpur in Nov 12 to Nov 16 next year. **-Press release**

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