Abstract

Sustainable development is now an established issue as people recognise the need to conserve the world’s limited resources. Sustainability should no longer be a far-fetched vision for the construction industry, which is one of the highest resource consuming industries and also a highly polluting one.

Besides time, cost and quality, the environment should be another project objective of the construction clients. Clients are highly influential parties in the construction industry who can demand sustainable construction. Use of contractual provisions and procurement systems are some of the ways in which they can attain sustainable construction. Examples from overseas and local construction industries are used to illustrate clients’ role in effectively influencing sustainable construction.

A survey was done on local developers to investigate their awareness of sustainable construction. Results showed that most local developers are not ready for the practice of sustainable construction even though they are aware of the need for it. A framework was drawn for the attainment of sustainable construction.

A major client in Singapore, Banyan Tree Hotels and Resorts, demonstrates how sustainable construction can be adopted and practised on construction projects. A public sector developer has also taken a giant step forward towards environmental awareness in construction. There is hope that these actions by enlightened clients will help the industry to move towards a more sustainable future.

Keywords: Sustainable construction, clients, environmental awareness