

**LIFE CYCLE ASSESSMENT OF ENERGY AND CO₂ EMISSIONS FROM CAST
IN-SITU AND INDUSTRIALISED BUILDING SYSTEMS**

THONG JIA WEN

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**Faculty of Built Environment and Surveying
Universiti Teknologi Malaysia**

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DEDICATION

This thesis is dedicated to my parents, who taught me that the best kind of knowledge to have is that which is learned for its own sake and the largest task can be accomplished if it is done one step at a time. It is also dedicated to my husband, who gave me support and strength to complete my thesis and not forget to my adorable children, who cheer me up in a very special way.

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ABSTRACT

The conventional cast in-situ (CIS) building construction method is predicted to produce and generate large quantities of waste and carbon emission to the environment. On the contrary, Industrialised Building System (IBS) has shown great potential as a green construction method and in promoting environmental building sustainability. This study evaluated and compared the environmental performance (energy and CO₂ emissions) of residential buildings in Iskandar Malaysia constructed using the CIS and IBS methods via a life cycle assessment (LCA). In addition, the trends in energy consumption and CO₂ emissions during the buildings' operational phase were also identified as this phase had the largest proportion of energy demand and CO₂ emissions. This study also analysed the patterns and hotspots of energy use and CO₂ emissions throughout the building life cycle for both case studies. In the first phase of this study, a functional unit of 1 m² of built-up area was identified throughout the building life cycle. The system boundaries were then set from an identified input-output framework from the cradle-to-gate LCA of residential buildings covering the assembly phase, the use phase, and the disassembly phase. The input-output framework of the LCA building processes was identified as an input flowchart for further analysis in GaBi software. The results indicated that IBS residential buildings have a more positive environmental impact than the CIS residential buildings. The CIS building and the IBS building had an 85.17 percent difference in energy consumption and an 87.17 percent difference in CO₂ emissions throughout a building life cycle of over 50 years. The identified hotspots during the material stage provided a better understanding of the contribution of energy and CO₂ emissions, especially by precast concrete, reinforced steel, and concrete. Apart from building performance affecting the building energy and CO₂ emissions during the operational stage, household characteristics, electrical appliances, and resident behaviour are also contributing factors that cannot be neglected. The dramatic reduction in environmental impact during the operational phase of the IBS building is not only interrelated with the application of the building materials used (precast concrete), but also the integration of the LCA methodology into the design phase, such as the orientation of the building facing North-South, further supporting the development of sustainable buildings. This analysis also provides concrete results supporting the adoption of IBS building construction to achieve low-energy and low-carbon residential buildings in Iskandar Malaysia.

ABSTRAK

Kaedah pembinaan konvensional tuangan di-situ (CIS) dijangka menghasilkan sejumlah besar sisa dan pelepasan karbon ke alam sekitar. Sebaliknya, Sistem Bangunan Berindustri (IBS) telah menunjukkan potensi yang baik sebagai kaedah pembinaan hijau dan mempromosikan kemapanan alam sekitar. Dengan itu, kajian ini bertujuan untuk menilai dan membandingkan prestasi alam sekitar (pelepasan tenaga dan CO₂) bangunan kediaman di Iskandar Malaysia yang dibina menggunakan kaedah CIS dan IBS melalui penilaian kitaran hayat (LCA). Di samping itu, penggunaan tenaga dan pelepasan CO₂ semasa fasa operasi bangunan juga dikenal pasti kerana fasa ini mempunyai perkadaran terbesar pelepasan tenaga dan CO₂. Kajian ini juga menganalisis corak dan punca penggunaan tenaga serta pelepasan CO₂ sepanjang kitaran hayat bangunan bagi kedua-dua kajian kes. Dalam langkah pertama kajian ini, unit fungsian sebanyak 1m² kawasan binaan telah dikenal pasti sepanjang kitaran hayat bangunan. Batasan sistem telah ditetapkan daripada satu rangka kerja input-output yang dikenal pasti dari mula ke akhir LCA bangunan kediaman yang meliputi fasa pemasangan, fasa penggunaan, dan fasa pemusnahan. Rangka kerja input-output proses bangunan LCA yang telah dikenal pasti dalam carta aliran input digunakan bagi tujuan analisis dalam perisian GaBi. Hasil kajian menunjukkan bahawa bangunan kediaman IBS mempunyai kesan alam sekitar yang lebih positif daripada bangunan kediaman CIS. Bangunan CIS dan bangunan IBS mempunyai perbezaan sebanyak 85.17 peratus dalam penggunaan tenaga dan perbezaan 87.18 peratus dalam pelepasan CO₂ sepanjang kitaran hayat bangunan lebih daripada 50 tahun. Titik panas yang dikenal pasti semasa peringkat bahan memberi pemahaman yang lebih baik tentang sumbangan tenaga dan pelepasan CO₂, terutamanya konkrit pratuang, keluli bertetulang dan konkrit. Selain daripada prestasi bangunan yang memberi kesan kepada tenaga binaan dan pelepasan CO₂ semasa peringkat operasi, ciri-ciri isi rumah, peralatan elektrik dan kelakuan penduduk juga merupakan faktor yang tidak boleh diabaikan. Pengurangan dramatik alam sekitar semasa fasa operasi bangunan IBS tidak hanya berkaitan dengan penggunaan bahan binaan, tetapi juga integrasi metodologi LCA ke dalam fasa reka bentuk, seperti orientasi pembinaan rumah yang menghadap Utara-Selatan, terus menyokong pembangunan bangunan lestari. Analisis ini juga menunjukkan hasil yang konkrit yang menyokong penggunaan pembinaan bangunan IBS bagi mencapai kediaman lestari di Iskandar Malaysia.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

ADP	-	Abiotic Depletion
AP	-	Acidification potential
BQ	-	Bill of quantities
CIS	-	Cast In-Situ
CIDB	-	Construction Industry Development Board
EIA	-	Environmental Impact Assessment
EP	-	Eutrophication Potential
EMP	-	Environmental Management Plan
FU	-	Functional Unit
GHG	-	Greenhouse gas
GWP	-	Global Warming Potential
IBS	-	Industrialised Building System
IM	-	Iskandar Malaysia
ISO	-	International Organization for Standardization
IOA	-	Input-Output Analysis
LCA	-	Life Cycle Assessment
LCI	-	Life Cycle Inventory
LCIA	-	Life cycle impact assessment
LPG	-	Landfill gas
MP	-	Malaysia Plan
MSW	-	Municipal solid waste
NGTP	-	National Green Technology Policy
O&M	-	Operations and Maintenance
ODP	-	Ozone Layer Depletion Potential
POPCP	-	Photochemical Ozone Creation Potential
PRISMA	-	Perumahan Rakyat Iskandar Malaysia
SB	-	System Boundary

LIST OF SYMBOLS

M	-	Material quantity per m^2
V	-	Material volume (m^3)
ρ	-	material density (kg/m^3)
M_A	-	Total built-up area (m^2)
E_d	-	Diesel energy density 43MJ/kg
t	-	operating 40hrs/ha
l_{ex}	-	diesel consumption 35l/h
ρ_d	-	density of diesel 0.832kg/l
V_{ex}	-	volume of excavation (ha)
T	-	time used for operation
C_f	-	carbon emission factor 0.074kgCO ₂ -e/MJ
E	-	Embodied Energy of diesel 0.0009 MJ diesel/kg.km
l_{tr}	-	diesel consumption 5 l/hr
d	-	distance
l_p	-	diesel consumption 7.99l/h
l_c	-	diesel consumption 13.5 l/h
E_t	-	Transportation Energy (MJ)
E_i	-	Energy Intensity (MJ/ m^3 km)
CO_2	-	Carbon Emission (kgCO ₂ -e)
C_{ft}	-	Energy Intensity (kgCO ₂ -e/ m^3 km)
μ	-	Mean
σ	-	Standard Deviation
β	-	<i>Coefficient</i>
r	-	<i>correlation coefficient</i>

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CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Introduction

Iskandar Malaysia is located at the southern gateway of Peninsular Malaysia. It is one of the largest economic developments in Asia, which has a total of five flagship zones proposed as the key points for those developments. There is also a major urban center for each flagship. Furthermore, the development rate of Iskandar Malaysia has been projected to increase the country's population by 2.2 times, which is from 1,353,202 in 2005 to 3,005,815 in 2025. Besides, it has also been presumed that the average number of occupants of household will increase by 2.4 times to 751,454 in 2025. There will also be an increase in energy consumption in 2025, which is to 1,091 in terms of energy demand and 7,715 ktCO₂ in terms of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. These amounts are 4.5 times and 5.3 times higher than the amounts of energy demand and greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) back in 2005 respectively (Universiti Teknologi Malaysia *et al.*, 2009).

The rapid increase of population in Iskandar Malaysia has also led to the construction of more high-rise buildings in urban cities, especially Johor Bahru. These will definitely lead to increase of environmental impacts to the environment. The sector of the buildings, which accounted for a large part of the emissions, played an important role in achieving a reduction of CO₂ emissions by 45% or higher. This emission rate was in reference to Malaysia Nationally Determined Contribution, where Malaysia intended to operate 45% reduction of GHG emissions intensity of

GDP by 2030. This amount was in relation to the emission intensity of GDP in 2005 (The Government of Malaysia, 2015). In many ways, the construction sector can influence the quantity of emissions produced from a building throughout its whole lifetime. The World Green Building Council estimates that, globally, up to 30% of worldwide GHG emissions, including carbon, are generated by the built environment (Wang Cai *et al.*, 2017).

There are several significant impacts of the methods used for building construction on energy demand, GHG emissions, and the environment. The application of Industrialised Building System (IBS) in the construction of low and high rise building contributes to several positive effects on the life cycle of buildings. For example, during the production phase, this construction reduces the need for transport of materials. As a result, it prevents unnecessary CO₂ emissions. Meanwhile, during the construction phase, precast concrete limits the amount of CO₂ emissions resulted from heating and cooling processes due to its excellent thermal properties. During the demolition phase, the complete recycling of precast concrete waste results in the minimum rate of CO₂ emissions.

Given that the area focused for this study was located at Iskandar Malaysia, a comparison case study of LCA, which was conducted between residential apartments constructed with IBS and Cast In-Situ (CIS), was to be performed for investigation on the impacts of energy use and CO₂ emission on the environment. The purpose of this was for the stakeholders, such as developers, contractors, government agencies and suppliers, to realize the importance of IBS for a more sustainable environment. However, reducing CO₂ and other greenhouse gases emissions could be considered as challenge for everyone involved in this study.

1.2 Background of Study

The Malaysian Government has committed to reduce the environmental impacts and towards a low carbon country by introducing policies and key practices related to environmental concerns from 6th Malaysia Plan (MP) to 11th Malaysia Plan (MP) which ultimately aims to achieve sustainable development. Referring to Figure 1.0, Malaysian Government has set to use IBS as a cleaner technology towards a greener environment from 9th MP (Mohamad Bohari *et al.*, 2015). The most recent 11th MP, Malaysia Government's committed towards sustainable consumption and production by constructing energy efficient and low carbon buildings in order to reduce the GHG emissions (EPU, 2015).

Policies and key practices related to environmental concerns in Malaysia Plan (MP)					
<u>6MP (1991-1995)</u>	<u>7MP (1996-2000)</u>	<u>8MP (2001-2005)</u>	<u>9MP (2006-2010)</u>	<u>10MP (2011-2015)</u>	<u>11MP (2016-2020)</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Mandatory legislative requirements for environment protection (EIA, EMP) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ EMS consistent with ISO 14001 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Introduction MS 1525:2001 ✓ National Strategic Plan for Solid Waste Management ✓ ISO 14001:2004 and EMS 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Introduction NGTP 2009 (green townships, eco-labelling, green procurement & life cycle costing) ✓ Revised MS 1525:2007 ✓ IBS as a cleaner technology ✓ Introduction of GBI 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Introduction ISO 50001:2011 ✓ Introduction of energy and the use of renewable energy for non-residential buildings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Sustainable consumption & production (energy efficient & low carbon building, transport, products & services) ✓ Reduction in GHGs emission intensity of GDP compared to 40% 2005 level by year 2020

Source: Mohamad Bohari *et al.*(2015) & EPU (2015)

Figure 1.1: Policies and key practices related to environmental concerns in Malaysia Plan (MP)

In order to achieve the aims of low carbon building in Malaysia, the efficiency improvements of building should be implemented. According to Asif, Muneer, and Kelley (2007), 30%-40% of primary energy worldwide is used for residential, office, and commercial buildings, which, in turn, produce 40%–50% of greenhouse gas emissions. Based on a life cycle energy analysis of buildings from 13 countries found in the literature, the life-cycle energy use of a building depends on the operational (80%–90%) and embodied (10%–20%) energies of the building (Ramesh et al., 2010). Hence, it is vital to take into consideration these energy consumptions in the building construction process to achieve sustainable development throughout the building life cycle. A life cycle assessment (LCA) is a method broadly used to better understand and focus on the causes and impacts of building construction on the environment in terms of mining, extracting, processing, manufacturing, and transporting materials, as well as for determining the energy required for construction, maintenance, and decommissioning.

LCA could be applied to buildings constructed via the IBS and the CIS method to provide a detailed analysis and interpretation of the overall life cycle of a building from its pre-use, upon use, and end of life cycle. Meanwhile, cast-in-situ is the traditional building construction method. IBS is one of the technologies that have been introduced to reduce the amount of energy emitted to the atmosphere during construction. However, Huberman and Pearlmutter (2008) noted the dramatic increase in the intensity of energy consumption in the pre-use phase (embodiment of energy, EE), the use phase (operational energy, OE), and the end of life phase (demolition or possible recycling and reuse) with industrialisation. Therefore, this study was conducted to compare the CIS method and IBS method during the pre-use stage to the end of life in order to determine the energy consumed for the different methods of building construction and the environmental impacts of each.

Iskandar Malaysia was chosen as a research location because it has plans to achieve a low carbon society. It is also working in line with government policy to promote an Industrialised Building System (IBS) to achieve sustainable development (Universiti Teknologi Malaysia *et al.*, 2009). One of the completed projects

constructed by Iskandar Malaysia was Perumahan Rakyat Iskandar Malaysia (PRISMA), residential buildings that have achieved a 97% IBS score, making them low energy and GHG buildings that well suit the comparison purposes of this study. Hence, it is sufficient that only two case studies that is the IBS and conventional cast-in-situ (CIS) construction techniques to be adopted and compared as part of the LCA of residential buildings.

Besides that, it is also important for Iskandar Malaysia to aspire towards becoming a low-carbon society due to its rapid industrialisation process and huge investments in manufacturing and infrastructure development. These are the factors driving the high demand for energy consumption further highlighting the needs for methods to minimise energy consumption and CO₂ emissions. The community, industry, institutions, and government need to put in significant efforts to change their current behaviour towards energy consumption and supply. The benefits of implementing IBS in building construction include reduced amounts of construction work on sites, reduced material wastage in on-site construction, and reduced construction waste at landfill sites; ultimately contributing to the indirect reduction in energy consumption and GHG emissions.

1.3 Problem Statement

The conventional building construction method is predicted to produce and generate large quantities of waste and carbon emissions to the environment. On the contrary, IBS has shown great potential as a green construction method and in promoting environmental building sustainability from its building assembly phase, its building use phase, to its disassembly phase. Based on the findings from Mao et al. (2013) and Pon and Wadel (2011), prefabricated buildings produced approximately 2%–5% lower GHG emissions compared to conventional cast-in-situ

buildings. Cao *et al.*, (2015) have conducted research on a comparative study of environmental performance between prefabricated and traditional residential buildings in China which the results showed that prefabricated residential buildings were more energy efficient with 20.49% reduction compared to the conventional type of residential buildings in China. Many studies have focused on the Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) of residential buildings, albeit on selected phases such as embodied energy and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from the assembly phase (Nässén *et al.*, 2007a; Pons and Wadel, 2011a; Chang *et al.*, 2012; Mao *et al.*, 2013), whereby some researchers focused on the building use phase (Buyle *et al.*, 2013a; Chastas *et al.*, 2016; Xu *et al.*, 2017), while others compared the modular type of residential building to the conventional type but with wood as the primary structure (Kamali and Hewage, 2016). The scenario in Malaysia, however, is different. The literature reveals that there are still very limited case studies of LCA residential buildings and knowledge about the environmental life cycle performance of modular buildings compared with the residential buildings that are cast in-situ, which is a very common construction type and technique used in Malaysia.

Besides the lack of real-world case studies of LCA residential buildings and limited local research, or the few developers or other government agencies in Malaysia involved from an effectiveness aspect, the waste management and enforcement to reduce carbon footprint in Malaysia's construction industry is still underdeveloped in comparison to the construction industries other developed countries. The primary reasons for this scenario are the challenges associated with applying sustainability initiatives in the commercial development of buildings, especially industry barriers such as technical information and knowledge, capital costs, configuring current operations from CIS to IBS, competitive pressures, industry regulations, and government policy (Mohammad, 2013).

The worldwide issue of global warming and climate change also play a role, especially the impacts and effects caused by construction on the environment. In fact, energy and environmental issues are interrelated with rapid building construction and its methods. For example, the extraction of natural resources results in the

consumption of energy by construction materials, environmental degradation, and global warming. Furthermore, the construction industry is a major consumer of non-renewable resources; not only that, but it is also a massive producer of waste and the operations of buildings under this industry account for around half of the overall CO₂ emissions in the world. To illustrate further, construction activities involve the extraction of natural resources such as turning forests into timber, as well as housing and industrial works, where extractions done without proper control could lead to environmental problems (Kamar & Hamid, 2011). Hence, IBS is strongly recommended for building construction in order to reduce the negative environmental impacts that it causes. However, the CIS approach is still used for the construction of most high-rise buildings in Iskandar Malaysia, as private developers prefer the lower labour cost incurred by this construction approach. According to a survey by the Construction Industry Development Board (CIDB), the private sector's adoption of IBS is still low, at around 15%, although the government of Malaysia has enforced a score for contractor-proposed IBS designs of not lower than 70%, as highlighted in the Manual of IBS Content Scoring System published by the Construction Industry Development Board (CIDB, 2010).

Blengini (2009), in his a case study of Turin, Italy, mentioned that the use phase of a conventional building contributed to 90.1% to 95.2% impact on the environment. Meanwhile, the pre-use phase, building materials, and construction operations had 6.2% to 11.5% environmental impact and between 0.2% and 2.6% impact in the end-of-life phase. In this case, the benefits of utilising IBS to reduce environmental impacts must be studied further since IBS could promise sustainability, as it controls the production environment and results in the minimum waste release. This process contributes to minimum energy losses caused by thermal leakages, as well as aids in the reduction of carbon emissions throughout the life cycle of buildings. Other than that, there are many other factors that affect each stage of the building life cycle such as some uncertainties inherent in the building use phase e.g., the occupant behaviour, the building shape, and the building orientation, all of which contribute to uncertainties in electricity usage. Aun (2009) stated that the size, shape, and orientation of a building affect the air conditioning or heating energy requirements. The heating of a building i.e. the heating effect on walls and solar

radiation is influenced by two climate factors. The heating effect is also influenced by the facade facing direction, ventilation, and direction of wind associated with the orientation of the building. However, the effectiveness of the IBS performance and the consideration of building façade orientation in reducing energy emissions during each phase of a building's life cycle have yet to be determined.

In order to gain an in-depth understanding of IBS construction methods compared to the conventional method, it is vital to evaluate the sustainability performance of the IBS construction technique throughout the entire life cycle phases of residential buildings. Therefore, assessments of building performance should be extended to include all life cycle stages and should be supported with a Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) methodology that allows the identification of each life cycle hotspot and to assist in the decision-making processes to reduce life cycle environmental impacts.

1.4 Research Questions

Based on the problem statement and background of this study, the following research questions were formulated in order to answer the stated research objectives:-

1. What is the life cycle impact assessment on the life cycle of residential buildings, when the Industrialised Building System (precast concrete system) approach and the cast in-situ building system in Iskandar Malaysia are put in comparison?
2. What is the energy used for construction and carbon emission throughout the life cycle of residential buildings when the Industrialised Building System (precast concrete system) approach and cast in-situ building system in Iskandar Malaysia are put in comparison?

3. What are the primary factors influencing the energy used for construction, carbon emission, and impacts of building construction based on the analysis?
4. How to reduce the impacts posed by the energy used for construction, carbon emission, and the environmental impacts of building construction highlighted in the case studies?

1.5 Objective of Study

The research aims to investigate the environmental impacts of the construction of residential building on IBS and the CIS building system in the aspect of life cycle. The following objectives were formulated in order to achieve the objectives of this study;

1. To evaluate and compare the environmental performance of Industrialised Building System (IBS) and the environmental performance of cast in-situ (CIS) building system in Iskandar Malaysia using Life Cycle Assessment Approach
2. To examine the pattern and hotspot of the energy used for construction and CO₂ emission through comparison between Industrialised Building System (IBS) and cast in-situ (CIS) building system in Iskandar Malaysia using GaBi software
3. To classify the trends on energy consumption during operational phase through comparison between Industrialised Building System (IBS) and cast in-situ (CIS) building system in Iskandar Malaysia using LCA approach

1.6 Scope of Study

The focus of the study is to perform the life cycle assessment of low-rise residential buildings located in Iskandar Malaysia, which was done through comparison between case studies based on the criteria of IBS and CIS building. After identifying the environmental impacts of building construction in the case studies, it would be possible to predict how these impacts would take place in the future, especially the impacts of energy demand and GHG emission in Iskandar Malaysia. This study also aims to achieve 45% of CO₂ intensity reduction rate. According to Knoema (2016), CO₂ emissions for Malaysia growing at an average annual rate of 5.10%

It is also crucial to identify and understand the benefits of implementing the IBS approach for construction in terms of building's life cycle. This approach will be a guideline for stakeholders to develop and implement the IBS approach for their building construction plan. Besides, this approach is suitable for the local planning policy through its improvement to have guard future to justify IBS is better than CIS method.

1.7 Significance of Study

This dissertation can be a supportive improvement for this study's findings and design changes, along with development of new rules and regulations to the stakeholders in Malaysia, especially local authorities and developers for a sustainable and low carbon society. With the results obtained from the case studies, building contractors and Malaysia's government would be able to revise strategies for reduction of energy demand and carbon emission. These reductions can be done by

enforcing the implementation of IBS in the construction industry. Based on this study's data analysis, optimization of more environmental-friendly materials and products for building construction, for example solar panels for renewable energy, is necessary.

Other than that, the comparison between case studies (i.e. IBS and CIS) can reveal the patterns of energy consumption and CO₂ emission throughout the life cycle of Iskandar Malaysia in detail. As this study is considered to have made to analyse the patterns for the residential buildings in Iskandar Malaysia, significant insights in the subject particularly the positive impact of IBS construction would be provided.

1.8 Chapter Outline

The structure of this thesis overview, along with contents of individual chapters, is briefly organized. A summary of each chapter is briefly described as follows:

Chapter 1: Introduction

This chapter consists of an introductory review of the problems related to construction methods, background of the problems regarding the energy used for building construction, carbon emissions, and environmental impacts on Iskandar Malaysia. Apart from that, it introduces the scope, objectives, and limitations of research along with research methodologies which were implemented in order to fulfill the research objectives.

Chapter 2: Literature Review

This chapter elaborates on the Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) of construction industry, such as the steps and methods implemented for LCA to take place in every phase of building's life cycle, such as incorporation of materials, construction, operation, maintenance, and demolition. Furthermore, an overview of GaBi Software, which is used to evaluate the life cycle impact assessment of buildings, has also been drawn. In addition, the importance and benefits of Industrialised Building System (IBS) as a construction approach have also been brought into attention in this chapter.

Chapter 3: Research Methodology

This chapter mainly focuses on the measures taken in order to achieve the desired research objectives and results. It provides detailed description on the approaches and methods applied in gathering the information and data required, which are obtained from various resources. This chapter then proceeds to illustrate the overall method frameworks and the procedures required to complete the research.

Chapter 4: Life Cycle Inventories Analysis of Building in the Case Studies in Iskandar Malaysia.

This chapter discusses on the case studies which have been carried out on two different types of residential low-rise buildings which were constructed using two different construction methods, namely IBS and CIS. The data is extracted from the Bill of Quantities (BQ) for material phase, whereas operation data is obtained through household questionnaires. On the other hand, the demolition phase of building will be according to literature review and presumptions. Apart from that, construction materials data is tabulated in an excel spreadsheet. The input-output frameworks of the analysis are created for better understanding regarding the process of LCA on buildings. The profile of survey analysis is also elaborated, and factors affecting energy and carbon emissions are discussed in further details.

Chapter 5: Life Cycle Assessment and Hotspots Comparison in the case studies in Iskandar Malaysia

This chapter primarily discusses on the use of GaBi software in order to obtain the life cycle impact assessment (LCIA) of IBS and CIS for the case study on residential low-rise buildings. This study was specifically focused on the evaluation of IBS and CIS environmental performance and environmental impact, which was based on the determined functional unit. The results of LCIA during each building phase were discussed, particularly on the residential low-rise buildings constructed with IBS and CIS in Iskandar Malaysia. Meanwhile, in this chapter, the factors contributing to high energy demand and climate change, particularly GHG emissions during each life cycle of buildings are discussed further in this chapter. The hotspots of each building life cycle, which contribute to high energy and carbon emissions, are also highlighted here. Moreover, explanation regarding multiple regression analysis attempts in discovering the correlation between the factors contributing to high energy and carbon emissions is provided in this chapter. Additionally, Life Cycle Interpretation, which is focused on sensitive analysis, is included in this chapter's discussion. Besides, $\pm 20\%$ of the identified hotspot materials in every phase has been examined, in order to compare the results of energy and carbon emissions which were previously obtained using given assumptions, methods, or data.

Chapter 6: Conclusion and Recommendation

Last but not least, this chapter presents the conclusion of this dissertation in overall, particularly on the building life cycle assessment on IBS and CIS low-rise residential buildings. For future improvement, contribution of knowledge, limitations of research and recommendations for future research and development are also highlighted in this chapter.

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