

Preface

Achieving sustainability has been a global concern for people of various countries, professions and disciplines. In recent years, agencies such as the United Nations (UN) have tailored their goals and objectives to the achievement of sustainability in terms of social, economic and environmental sustainability. For construction, it has become unavoidable to deliver infrastructures that are economically, socially and ecologically sustainable because of various challenges posed by construction activities such as deforestation and air pollution, among others.

There have been many management tools for the effective production of infrastructures in the construction industry and one of them is value management. Value management provides a multidisciplinary framework with the aim of achieving the best function of products and elements at the lowest possible overall cost. It involves the identification of alternatives, and the elimination of unnecessary cost, materials, labour and energy, while striving to provide the best function of the element. Value management has been applied to construction projects in most developed and some developing economies, while it is barely gaining popularity in some other economies. It is therefore necessary to create an awareness of the benefits and understanding of the various obstacles to its implementation among construction industry stakeholders. It is also essential to understand the various drivers that assist in the implementation of the discipline. This book therefore provides readers with the various drivers, barriers and benefits of adopting value management as well as the medium of application of the tool for achieving sustainable construction projects. There are a number of scholarly books in each of these aspects but there is a lack of literature that integrates the link between the two areas as discussed above.

The book adopts divisions into various parts and chapters to highlight various concepts of value management and sustainable construction, which are collectively referred to as sustainable value management for construction projects. Each of the chapters commences with an introduction describing what to expect from the section and concludes with a summary highlighting major issues raised. As this is a research book, references are provided at the end of each chapter for further reading

and expansion of knowledge. An index of important and key words is also provided for a quick reference to areas of interest.

The expected readers of this book include built environment scholars; government agencies (public clients) such as parastatals, ministries and other arms of government that are concerned with the provision of infrastructure and other associated developmental projects; corporate agencies involved in planning, executing and managing infrastructures; individual clients who desire value for money for their projects; owners of construction projects; policy makers who are concerned with improving the performance of construction projects; construction professionals tasked with the responsibilities of development and monitoring of construction works; bodies and boards concerned with the monitoring and regulation of the professionals; building contractors in various categories of project execution in building, civil, and industrial engineering areas; and financiers of construction projects, including banks, insurance companies, bond companies, and loan firms, amongst others. It will also be useful for stakeholders in the construction education sector including education boards; principal administrators of education-related institutions; and researchers in the field of architecture, building, construction management, estate management, engineering, land surveying, project management, quantity surveying, urban and regional planning, and other built environment areas.

The book can be adopted as research guide, framework, aid, note or material for topics relating to value management in construction, the concept of construction projects, project performance indices and sustainable developments in the construction industry. We hope that all readers of this book will find it not only stimulating, insightful and impacting but also helpful in advancing their knowledge in the areas of value management and achievement of sustainable developments.

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