A Relationship Framework for Building Information Modeling (BIM) Capability in Quantity Surveying Practice and Project Performance

Un marco de relación entre la capacidad de BIM para la práctica de los aparejadores y los resultados del proyecto

P. F. Wong (*), H. Salleh (*), F. A. M. Rahim (*)

ABSTRACT

Construction industry has suffered from poor project performance and it’s crucial to find out solution to improve this issue. Quantity surveyors (QSs) play a key role in managing project cost. However, their method of performing tasks is tedious till affect the project performance. Building information modeling (BIM) application is attaining attention in the construction industry as a mean to improve the project performance. However, the adoption is low among QSs due to limited study of the BIM’s capabilities in their profession. This research aims to identify the BIM capabilities in quantity surveying practices and examine its relationship with project performance by developing a relationship framework. Data were collected through questionnaire survey and interview in Malaysia. Questionnaire results revealed that several BIM capabilities were significantly correlated with project performance and they were validated through interview. The relationship framework will guide QSs to focus on the identified BIM capabilities for better project outcomes.

Keywords: Building information modeling (BIM); quantity surveyors; capability; project performance; relationship framework.

RESUMEN

La industria de la construcción ha sufrido históricamente desviaciones en las mediciones de los materiales empleados frente a las cantidades proyectadas. Los aparejadores juegan un papel clave en este aspecto como responsables de la recepción de materiales. Sin embargo, el trabajo de medición es tedioso hasta el punto de afectar al rendimiento del proyecto. La aplicación del Building Information Modeling (BIM) está logrando mejorar este trabajo. Aun así, su utilización es baja entre los aparejadores debido a la escasa formación recibida sobre las posibilidades del BIM. Esta investigación busca identificar las capacidades del BIM aplicado a la medición de materiales y examinar su relación con el rendimiento del proyecto desarrollando un marco de relación. Mediante encuestas y entrevistas realizadas en Malasia, se obtuvieron datos que revelaron que varias capacidades de BIM se correlacionan de manera significativa con el rendimiento del proyecto. El marco de relación orientará a los aparejadores sobre las capacidades identificadas de BIM para obtener mejores resultados del proyecto.

Palabras clave: Building Information Modeling (BIM); aparejadores; capacidad; rendimiento del proyecto; marco de relación.

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1. INTRODUCTION

Completing a project on time and within budget as specified quality standards is a major criterion of success of a project in the construction industry (1). However, many construction projects have suffered from poor performance such as project delay and cost overrun (2) (3) (4). Al-Reshaid et al. (5) and Gibson and Hamilton (6) explained that poor time and cost performance is due to bad planning of the project consultants during pre-construction stage. It is known that pre-construction stage is an influential stage and foundation for a successful project as many decisions on cost and time are made during this early stage which has an impact on the project performance. It’s paramount to provide a series of accurate cost estimate at the early project stage for early decision as it has great influence on the project outcome (7). Hence, more efforts should devote at the early stage for better project performance.

Quantity surveyors (QSs) play an important role on providing cost management services in the construction industry. They are responsible for the cost management throughout the entire life span of a project from the feasibility and design stages until building completion. Among the services provided, building measurement is one of the major tasks provided by the QSs. However, this task is very time-consuming and is always prone to errors. Conventionally, the quantities are calculated by hand from paper drawings or using quantity surveying software based on 2D drawings and then, the dimensions are transferred on excel spreadsheet to perform the estimation. The time spent by the QSs varies by project, but around 50-80% of the time needed to create a cost estimate is spent on quantification (8). Mitchell (7) also commented that QSs spend 90% of their time on calculating building quantities. However, these tedious and time-consuming tasks performed by QSs can be eradicated by automating the process by implementing building information modeling (BIM). BIM technology is a potential solution for the above problems by automating the tedious tasks (9) which allow the QSs to devote their time to other value-added services.

BIM is defined as an associated set of modeling processes to produce, insert, share and manage the information in a centralized model to improve the designs, construction, operations and maintenance processes. It is a replacement to conventional working methods and can assist QSs in the generation of accurate quantity take offs and cost estimates throughout the project lifecycle. BIM eliminates many tedious tasks of traditional quantity surveying, such as measurement, take offs, and production of bills of quantity (BQ). BIM has the potential to revolutionize the quantity surveying practice by taking away the tediousness of the tasks and thus enhance the job performances of QSs. However, compared to architects and engineers, QSs lagged behind in BIM application (10). According to Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) survey conducted in 2011, 10% of QSs were using BIM regularly and further 29% of QSs have some limited engagement with BIM (11). This survey revealed that low BIM usage among QSs is due to lack of awareness and being unsure of its potential usability in their practice.

There are limited studies on the potential of BIM in cost management activities such as cost planning, estimation and quantification (4) which results in low awareness among QSs. It was found that one of the factors caused low awareness is lack of information regarding BIM application along with the uncertain capability of new technology has caused the QSs reluctance to implement BIM. This situation has made them default back to conventional working methods which impede their job performance. In order to improve this situation, it is crucial to create greater awareness of the potential and benefits of BIM in surveying practice (11) (12). Prior studies have addressed the importance of adopting BIM in the construction industry (4) (7) but not focusing on the quantity surveying profession. Therefore, this paper aims to identify the capabilities of BIM in quantity surveying practice. This is followed by examining the relationship between BIM capabilities and project time and cost performances; then, to develop a regression model for prediction purpose on project performance. Lastly, a relationship framework is developed to show the relationship between BIM capabilities in quantity surveying practice and project performance.

This study potentially provides three key contributions to the extant literature. First, it is expected to raise research interest on BIM application in quantity surveying practice. It adds to literature on the list of BIM capabilities in quantity surveying practice. The importance of recognizing and understanding how BIM application may contribute to performance of QSs is highlighted. It will gain QSs’ understanding of the potential and ability of BIM process in their practice; leading to job performance improvement as compared to traditional inefficient practice. Second, this study contributes to the body of literature by examining the relationship between BIM capabilities in quantity surveying practice and project performance. Specific analyses on the relationship of BIM capabilities and project performance are relatively limited. Therefore, the study results can provide an insight to QSs on how to achieve better project performance in terms of time and cost by using BIM. Third, the relationship framework developed can be used as a guide and inform the QSs practice on which of the relationships shall be governed.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

Many of the previous studies conducted to study the BIM application in cost management aspect or quantity surveying practice. Olatunji et al. (4) explored the relationship between the roles of QSs and BIM in the construction industry. They highlighted that BIM has the potential to revolutionize the quantity surveying practice. Smith (13) discussed the opportunities and challenges of cost professions of embracing 5D BIM applications in order to become 5D project cost manager in the BIM environment. Thurairajah and Goucher (14) focused on the usability and impact of BIM for cost consultants. Their finding indicated that time saving is one of the key advantages of BIM for cost consultants during the cost estimating stage. Matipa et al. (15) explored the impact of the new rules of measurement on the building information model schema pertinent to the QSs. Besides, several authors conducted a study to examine the current BIM application in quantity surveying practice in their country respectively. Stanley and Thurnell (16) presented the benefits and barriers of 5D BIM application by QSs in Auckland through interviews. In Sri Lanka, Nagalingam et al. (9) explore the potential expansion of the role and responsibilities of QSs in a BIM based project delivery.

In term of BIM application in cost estimating process, few authors have made an effort on it. Cheung et al. (17) detailed...
The choice of research methodology is depends on the
nature of the research subject, aims and the research questions
(25) (26). In this instance, the nature of the research and
aim is to examine the relationship between BIM capabilities
in quantity surveying practice in construction design stage
and project performance (dependent variables). It was found that
a mixed method of quantitative and qualitative approach is
suitable for this study. Quantitative results provide the sig-
nificant relationship between BIM capabilities and project
performance, whereas qualitative results help to explain why
certain capabilities identified are significant to the project
performance to provide a better understanding of the rela-
tionship. In construction research, previous studies conduct-
ed by several authors (3) (27) also adopted mixed method of
quantitative and qualitative approach to explore the rela-
tionships between the independent and dependent vari-
ables.

Creswell (28) pointed out that there are three types of mixed
method designs: triangulation, explanatory and exploratory.

In order to identify BIM capabilities and examine the rela-
tionship between BIM capabilities with project performance,
this study was designed into four phases. The study began
with a detail literature review to identify the BIM capabilities
in quantity surveying practice during pre-construction stage.
After reviewing the literatures, there were eleven BIM capa-
bilities in quantity surveying practice that have been identi-
fied. The eleven BIM capabilities obtained along with their
identification numbers (C1, C2, C3, ..., C11) were displayed in
Table 1. Phase 2 of the study involved preliminary interview
to serve as a purpose of pilot study to verify the BIM capabili-
ties that identified through literature review. It is important
to confirm the identified capabilities are reflected to the cur-
rent quantity surveying practice. The selected interviewees
were chosen to have at least 10 years of experience in the con-
struction industry and had used BIM in their practice. The in-
terview results reached saturation after eight interviews. The
preliminary interview concluded that the identified eleven
BIM capabilities through literature review were confirmed by
the interviewees.

At phase 3, main data collection was begun with question-
naire distribution to quantity surveying firms in Malaysia.
Quantity surveying firms that have adopted BIM in practice
were the main target respondents. Pilot study was undertaken
to pre-test the survey and subsequently modified before the
industry-wide survey. Altogether, 325 questionnaires were
delivered and each respondent was given 2-3 weeks to return
the questionnaires. Finally, 103 valid questionnaires were
received representing a 32% response rate. The responses
received were analyzed through Statistical Package for Social
Science (SPSS) software.

Spearman’s rho correlation test was used to determine the
relationship between BIM capabilities and project perform-
ance. There is a significant relationship if the probability is
less than 0.05. Subsequently, this study adopted binary logis-
tic regression to investigate the effect of BIM capabilities on
project performance. By adopting this method, which of the
BIM capabilities affect the project performance can be known
from the result. Prediction model for project performance can
be produced to understand further the relationship between
capabilities and project performance. Binary logistic regres-
sion was selected for this study because the dependent varia-

3. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY AND ANALYSIS

The choice of research methodology is depends on the na-
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Table 1. BIM capabilities in quantity surveying practice.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tag</th>
<th>Capability</th>
<th>Reference</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>C1</td>
<td>Cost appraisal can be prepared quickly at the feasibility stage</td>
<td>(7, 59)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C2</td>
<td>Preliminary cost plan can be prepared by extracting quantities directly from the model</td>
<td>(7, 9, 21)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C3</td>
<td>Easily update cost plans with more detail as design is developed</td>
<td>(7, 9, 10, 21, 60)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C4</td>
<td>Easily generate accurate cost estimates for various design alternatives</td>
<td>(7, 9, 21, 61, 62)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C5</td>
<td>Design changes reflected consistently in all drawing views</td>
<td>(60, 62, 63)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C6</td>
<td>Cost implication of design changes can be generated easily without manually re-measurement</td>
<td>(10, 27, 52, 61, 62)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C7</td>
<td>Clash detection reduces design errors and cost estimate revisions</td>
<td>(10, 64, 65)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C8</td>
<td>Cost checking performs quickly to ensure all items are capture</td>
<td>(60, 62)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C9</td>
<td>Improved visualization for better understanding of designs</td>
<td>(10, 19, 66, 67, 68)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C10</td>
<td>Automatically quantification for BQ preparation</td>
<td>(9, 22, 61, 68)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C11</td>
<td>Intelligent information management system allows data to be stored in a central coordinated model</td>
<td>(10, 21, 61, 68)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Findings revealed that C1 is correlated with the project time performance. BIM has the capability in strengthening the quality of decision made at this early stage based on quick feedback on the feasibility to avoid time wasted. Realizing that a project is over budget and not feasible at the beginning stage can ensure the time performance which allows the project team to seek for better other feasible alternatives. By getting cost appraisal early from the QSs, interviewees asserted that this contributed to timely feedback on the design and allow for early modification, which avoid the potential delay associated with later stage changes. As a result, this capability has an impact on time performance.

The findings indicated that C2 is correlated with time and cost performance. Preliminary cost plan can be prepared faster and accurately by using BIM. Quantity can be extracted directly from the model. Hence, it reduces human error and subsequently enhances project time and cost performance. The statement by Nagalingam et al. (9) pointed out that project time is saved and cost overrun can be avoided as...
preliminary cost estimate can be prepared quickly is hence supported. The interviewees also pointed out that QSs would extract the information contained in the model accurately in a shorter time. By getting cost plan earlier and accurately by the QSs, project client can have a conceptual idea of the project scope. Any misinterpretation in the cost plan can be realized and solved earlier before it impacts to the project. This in turn eliminates construction issues at the early stage and reduces change orders during later stage which can ensure the project performance.

The C3 is correlated with time and cost performance as shown in the results. Manual practice is prone to errors as the QSs need to detect many changes and updates in quantities and costing, BIM has the capability to allow them to update the cost plan automatically. This aligns with Gee (30) who asserted that BIM allows rapid updating quantities in the cost plan, so that design develops within project scope and avoid unnecessary expenses. Interviewees pointed out that frequent and easy updates cost plan by using BIM allow early notification to the project team if the design is out of budget and schedule at the earlier stage. This ensures project performance which avoid any major variation that can affect project time and cost.

C4 is identified as correlated with the time and cost performance. BIM allows QSs to generate various cost estimates for different design alternatives. Quantities can be quickly and easily changed to see how the project will be affected with respect to cost and time in different design options. The statement by Gee (30) revealed that client will be able to consider for different design alternatives by evaluating the costs related to the alternatives which can result in valuable cost savings and resources utilization. Majority of the interviewees mentioned that this capability enables the QSs to explore various design alternatives and what-if scenarios to optimize the building performance before construction. In turn, it enhances the project performance as the client can choose few alternatives to evaluate different designs or material options to determine which are the most beneficial. Subsequently it eliminates costly and timely traditional construction design or methods.

The analysis findings also displayed that C5 is correlated with the cost performance. If a design on a drawing is changed, then all other drawings of this part also need to be revised. Manual revision is time consuming as many drawings view affected by the changes made. If changes do not updated in all drawing views, QSs have a tendency to miss out some elements which affect the project cost. However, Burns and McDonnell (31) stated that BIM allows a greater flexibility for revisions during the time when design changes which have the positive impact on construction cost. Interviewees explained that changes made in any representation are propagated to all views and thus, all the representations were coordinated. With this capability, it ensures accuracy for the latest iteration of the design and avoids QSs from using obsolete drawings for cost estimating that may affect the cost performance.

The C6 revealed as correlated with the cost performance. QSs struggled with the ability to respond to the design and requirement changes and to understand the impact of those changes on the overall project budget. This is because re-measurement is tedious and mistakes tend to occur that make costing inaccurate. This capability will generate cost implications automatically when the design changes. Hence, the cost performance is enhanced with less human error. The findings verified that Gee (30) who mentioned that the project cost can be managed efficiently as cost implications regarding the changes were shown at early project stages. Interviewees stated that cost implication was a concern for the client as it influences the project budget. Hence, it is important for QSs to generate cost implications to show the cost differences which allow the clients to see how the changes affect the total cost of a building.

C7 is found to be correlated with the project cost and time performance. This is supported by Ghanem and Wilson (32) who demonstrated BIM application through a case study on a project by showing BIM application is able to reduce cost by detecting clashes at early stage. Interviewees explained that design deficiencies would cause change order which incur extra costs and project delays. With this capability, design errors can be detected earlier and resolved earlier before it brings negative impact on project performance. According to most interviewees, they are able to identify design clashes by using BIM which helps to rectify the design errors before the construction begins.

C8 is displayed correlated with the project time performance. This is consistent with Jiang (33) who ascertained errors and omissions can be significantly reduced at the early stage and thus speeding up the construction process or shortening the construction period. QSs can quickly check for excessive or missing quantities in the model to confirm the accuracy and completeness of the quantification. Interviewees explained that visual checking on BIM model allows QSs to perform checking easily and it reduces the possibility of omissions. By doing this, it avoids project delays that caused by omissions due to oversight by the QSs.

Analysis results displayed that C9 is correlated with the project time and cost performance. Shen and Issa (34) conducted a test and proved that the 3D visualization can show the performance improvement in terms of time and cost. The statement is proven by the analysis result. Interviewees agreed that by enhancing the QSs’ understanding on design using this capability; they are able to interpret design accurately and captured a precise costing. It allows QSs to grasp the details quickly and easily without confusion. Subsequently

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tag</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C1</td>
<td>.252**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C2</td>
<td>-.406**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C3</td>
<td>.284**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C4</td>
<td>-.394**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C5</td>
<td>.101</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C6</td>
<td>.187</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C7</td>
<td>.275**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C8</td>
<td>.296**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C9</td>
<td>-.342**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C10</td>
<td>.275**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C11</td>
<td>.275**</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed)
** Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed)
it reduces misinterpretation, making wrong assumption and minimizes risk of making mistakes during early stage. Hence, it ensures project performance.

The findings demonstrated that C10 is correlated with time and cost performance. QSs have the tendency to capture inaccurate costing which affect the project cost performance and project delays. Mistakes could occur such as double counting and missed out elements as the project consists of multiple elements and drawings. However, through automatically calculated quantity take offs which extracted directly from the model, cost savings can be achieved as mentioned by Hsu (35). One of the interviewees shared the experience of adopting BIM in practice; the project achieved cost savings as quantity take off was completed accurately which allow the construction team to purchase exact materials needed and thereby reduce wastage. Thus, it ensures the cost performance.

Findings indicated that C11 is correlated with the time performance. Information sharing in paper-based often cause miscommunication and information breakdown that have serious impact on project time performance. Part of the QSs’ tasks involves collating and clarifying information from different design consultants which will lead to non-productive and inefficient work that affect time performance (36). BIM acts a central database with all information stored and accessible by all project parties. The statement of Alibun and Venkatesh (36) highlighted BIM provides a platform for integrated information exchange through a single model which will enhance time performance. The quick and easy access to information helps the QSs in expediting their work performance. According to majority of the interviewees, by having timely and promptly information and documents, QSs can perform their tasks efficiently by providing advice to clients which lead to improvement in client decision making that lead to improvement in client decision making that could impact on project time performance.

4.2. Developing the regression model

Logistic regression analysis was performed by using the eleven BIM capabilities as the predictors. In the analysis, project performance was coded into dichotomous variables which are good (1) and poor (0) performance. The analysis begins targeted on these two BIM capabilities. It is then QSs should adopt BIM in their practice not only to improve their performance but also project time performance.

### 4.2.1. Time performance

As shown in Table 3, SPSS produced four steps to include the predictor that significantly contributed to the logistic regression model. During the Step 1 selection process, C2 with highest chi-square score (15.496) that meets the p-value criterion (significant at 0.05) is selected in the model. Step 2 revealed C8 significantly predicting the time performance with chi-square score of 6.117 (p < .05). Step 3 included C9 with chi-square score of 5.937. At Step 4, C2 removed from the model reduce the chi-square value of 0.635. The whole process stopped and the final model consists of two independent variables. Hence, the two independent variables of C8 and C9 are significantly predicting the time performance (total chi-square value = 26.915, p < .05).

Meanwhile, the p-value for Hosmer and Lemeshow goodness of fit is .906, which is more than .05. Thus, the model adequately fit the data. As can be seen, 48.4% of the variance in time performance could be predicted from the capability C8 and C9. Both variable coefficients are statistically significant at the 5% level. This indicates that the model is good in prediction of project time performance. The result demonstrates that these two variables have an effect on the time performance. The logistic regression equation is produced as follows (see Table 3).

\[ Z = -9.663 + 2.210 (C8) + 2.015 (C9) \]

Thus, C8 and C9 are the two variables that influence the project time performance. If QSs focuses on these two BIM capabilities, the project time performance would most likely to be improved. Understanding of this relationship could help QSs target on these two BIM capabilities. It is then QSs should adopt BIM in their practice not only to improve their performance but also project time performance.

### 4.2.2. Cost performance

As shown in Table 4, SPSS produced two steps to include the predictor that significantly contributed to the logistic regression model. During the Step 1 selection process, C10 with highest chi-square score (8.922) that meets the p-value criterion (significant at 0.05) is selected in the model. Step 2 revealed C4 significantly predicting the cost performance with chi-square score of 4.790 (p < .05). The whole process stopped and the final model consists of two independent vari-

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Predictor</th>
<th>B</th>
<th>S.E.</th>
<th>Wald</th>
<th>Sig.</th>
<th>Model fit information</th>
<th>Pseudo R-square</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Chi-Square</td>
<td>Sig.</td>
<td>Cox &amp; Snell</td>
<td>Nagelkerke</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Cap 2</td>
<td>1.698</td>
<td>.500</td>
<td>11.535</td>
<td>.001</td>
<td>15.496</td>
<td>.003</td>
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<tr>
<td>Constant</td>
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<td>1.274</td>
<td>3.632</td>
<td>.057</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cap 8</td>
<td>1.557</td>
<td>.511</td>
<td>9.299</td>
<td>.002</td>
<td>6.117</td>
<td>.029</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cap 9</td>
<td>1.401</td>
<td>.614</td>
<td>5.211</td>
<td>.022</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td>Constant</td>
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<td>7.846</td>
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<td>Cap 8</td>
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<td>1.600</td>
<td>.764</td>
<td>4.487</td>
<td>.036</td>
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<td>9.026</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cap 8</td>
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<td>.769</td>
<td>8.256</td>
<td>.004</td>
<td>-635</td>
<td>.010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cap 9</td>
<td>2.015</td>
<td>.623</td>
<td>10.461</td>
<td>.001</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Constant</td>
<td>-9.663</td>
<td>3.211</td>
<td>9.055</td>
<td>.003</td>
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</table>
ables. Hence, the two independent variables of C4 and C10 are significantly predicting the cost performance (total chi-square value = 13.712, p < .05).

Meanwhile, the p-value for Hosmer and Lemeshow goodness of fit is .903, which is more than .05. Thus, the model adequately fit the data. As can be seen, 31.6 % of the variance in cost performance could be predicted from the capability C10 and C4. Both variable coefficients are statistically significant at the 5 % level. This indicates that the model is good in prediction of project cost performance. The result demonstrates that these two variables have an effect on the cost performance. The logistic regression equation is produced as follows (see Table 4).

\[ Z = -8.150 + 1.133 \times C4 + 2.002 \times C10 \]

Thus, C4 and C10 are the two variables influence the project cost performance. If QSs focuses on these two BIM capabilities, the project cost performance would most likely be improved. Understanding of this relationship could help QSs targeted on these two BIM capabilities. It is then QSs should adopt BIM in their practice not only to improve their performance but also project cost performance.

### 4.3. Relationship Framework of BIM Capabilities and Project Performance

The interview results validated the questionnaire survey results by ascertaining QSs’ views concerning the BIM capabilities and their relationship with project performance. The experiences of interviewees by using the identified BIM capability for construction project have been reported to provide more concrete information on the relationship identified between BIM capability and project performance. The results from the interviews highlighted that there is a relationship between BIM capabilities in quantity surveying practice during pre-construction stage and project performance in time and cost aspect. Hence, the identified BIM capabilities have an impact on project performance.

In this study, it was found out that project performance in the aspect of time and cost were improved when QSs adopted BIM capabilities in their practice during pre-construction stage. These results lend support to the suggestion that by adopting BIM in quantity surveying practice during pre-construction stage, QSs can perform efficiently; the project performance is more likely to enhance. Hence, BIM adoption in quantity surveying practice during pre-construction stage is key practice necessary to improve project performance. It is due to more effort spend during pre-construction stage is critical to improve project time and cost performance (6) than efforts undertaken after the project is started. Many crucial decisions are made during this early stage as the impact of these decisions made early is usually greater than later stages.

When QSs adopt BIM for practice, many decisions can be made at the early stage based on their professional advice,
which ultimately have significant impact on the project outcome. Thus, it is essential to adopt BIM by QSs during this early stage. QSs are able to gain efficiency in performing their works by using BIM during early stage which will affect the project performance. This leads to a more efficient project outcome that stays on budget and schedule. It aligns with Aibinu and Venkatesh (36) who asserted that BIM enhances the accuracy in quantity take off which would impact on cost estimating and also other services provided by the QSs which in turn have positive implications for a project as a whole.

Lastly, a relationship framework has been established to present the relationship between BIM capabilities in quantity surveying practice during pre-construction stage and project performance in time and cost aspect as depicted in Figure 1. By organizing the identified relationships into a framework, it could make the BIM capabilities and relationship more accessible and obvious to the QSs for reference and increase understanding. QSs should focus on these identified BIM capabilities to further streamline their roles. It creates better overall project outcomes for the project.

5. CONCLUSION

Although the evolution of BIM will undoubtedly plays an important catalyst role in the future, many QSs are still unsure of the capabilities of BIM. BIM application in quantity surveying practice has received less attention as most of the studies focused on BIM application in terms of design perspectives. Several studies have addressed the importance of adopting BIM in the construction industry. However, specific capabilities of BIM in quantity surveying practice are the area that needs further study. In this study, eleven capabilities of BIM were identified through the literature reviews and verified through preliminary interview. Quantitative questionnaire survey was conducted to examine the relationship between BIM capabilities and project performances. Lastly, fifteen interviews were conducted to verify the survey findings and a relationship framework has developed.

The results of the survey provided the following findings. Among the BIM capabilities, nine out of eleven BIM capabilities were found significantly correlated to the time performance which is C1, C2, C3, C4, C7, C8, C9, C10 and C11. Eight out of eleven BIM capabilities were found significantly correlated to the cost performance which is C2, C3, C4, C5, C6, C7, C9 and C10. Logistic results revealed that C8 and C9 are the significant predictors for project time performance; C10 and C4 are the significant predictors of the project cost performance. The results revealed that time and cost performances were influenced by BIM capabilities in quantity surveying practice. Therefore, it is important for QSs to focus these capabilities for project performance improvement. Lastly, fifteen interviews were carried out to validate the quantitative results. All of the interviewees affirmed the survey results by stating that the BIM capabilities in quantity surveying practice can enhance project performance in term of time and cost aspects. A relationship framework was presented to demonstrate the identified relationships for QSs in order to increase their understanding and facilitate adoption in their practice.

The adoption of BIM in quantity surveying practice to improve project performance is emphasized in this study. This study helps to increase the awareness of BIM capabilities in the quantity surveying profession. Understanding of how the BIM application will enhance QSs’ performance is important as this encourages them to benefit from the use of BIM and move away from traditional inefficient working methods. Therefore, it is recommended that the QSs should devote more effort towards BIM application to improve their job performance. Moreover, by showing the relationship between BIM capabilities and project performance, it is shown that the project performance can be enhanced by the application of BIM in quantity surveying practice. This in turn will encourage the QSs to adopt BIM in their practice and avoid lagging behind compare to other professions. It is noticeable that industry and clients requirements are changing which demand different services from the QSs. It is critical for QSs to adopt BIM for performance enhancement. Performance improvement via BIM implementation in quantity surveying practice is essential for long-term survival of quantity surveying organizations in the construction industry.

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