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## PREFACE

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This issue of *Planning Malaysia Journal* includes a mixture of articles addressing various issues in contemporary urban planning. Article 1 raises the question of whether green initiatives in educational institutions, especially universities, were successful in producing green graduates. A survey among green and non-green universities students showed that there is no significant difference in the level of perception, attitude and responsible environmental behaviour between green and non-green universities graduates. Thus, it suggests that students' involvement in universities' green initiatives should be increased.

Article 2 discusses the impacts of street urban design on the perceived safety by women respondents. As women's role in the cities becoming more pronounced, the authors suggest that streets and urban design should consider the safety of women so that street can become a safe and highly utilised public space. Article 3 looks at the factors affecting house prices in Malaysia in order to determine the alternative benchmark for Islamic home financing scheme. It shows that house price index are influenced by economic growth, demand for housing loan and construction materials. Article 4, in the meantime, compares the Islamic home financing schemes on offer in Malaysia nowadays, and suggest that there is a need for banks to move on from the *Al-Bay Bithaman Ajil* to *Musharakah Mutanaqisah* Partnership housing financing scheme.

Article 5 looks how innovative management of natural resources leads to increased participation of the local community and improved revenue for rural businesses. These, in turn, motivates local stakeholders to continue preserving the resources. Article 6 examines the practices regarding food waste management in hotels in Langkawi. It found that there was a lack of emphasis from the hotels on their policy related to wastage of food and unsustainable food consumption pattern by their guests. This reflects on the lack of practices towards sustainable food waste management by the hotel sector.

Article 7 identifies changes and threats to Malay landscape preservation in traditional Malays houses in Melaka and Kelantan. It concludes that threats to such preservation include inappropriate use of garden space, problems regarding house ownership, inadequate fund for maintenance, and current development trend that leads to traditional Malay garden setting being replaced by modern setting.

Article 8 discusses the use of agroforestry approach to improve sustainability of oil palm smallholdings. Rapid development and expansion of natural forest into oil palm land has decreased the agricultural sustainability of Malaysian oil palm production. However, the article shows that sustainability of oil palm smallholdings can be improved through agroforestry, which at the same time was found to also improve income of the smallholders.

Article 9 develops a framework on how public art could be used in a placemaking project. It suggests that public art placemaking is a collaborative and multi-disciplinary process. Thus, for the project to succeed, it is important that there is a good collaboration among the team working on the project. Local community should also be involved in the project. The article concludes that the proposed framework has potential to be adopted by local authorities in Malaysia, and it can enable a more collaborative process of placemaking between the local government, consultants, artists and the public.

Article 10 evaluates public perception and awareness on sources of traffic pollution in Kuala Lumpur, its effects on health and strategies to mitigate the pollution. It was found that respondents were aware on the sources of traffic pollution in the study area, and were aware of its effects on major illnesses such as pneumonia and asthma. Respondents were also favourable to government policies and strategies to mitigate traffic pollution, especially on increasing public transport and green vehicles usage.

Article 11 reviews and compares regulations of various countries with regards to tree preservation. It also traces the history of the Malaysian Tree Preservation Order, and examines its implementation over the years since its introduction. It concludes that the Malaysian Tree Preservation Order requires constant reviews, as well as an implementation guideline to assist related parties to implement the Order effectively.

Article 12 investigates the performance of local authority through the perspective of role theory. The results show that the local authority has performed well in its role with regard to controlling development in its area. However, its performance were only moderate in the service, collect and publish roles. The final article, Article 13, reviews the application of socio-economic indicators in urban climate impact studies. It concludes that indicator selection for such studies must reflect the spatial scale of the urban area. Thus, it proposes a conceptual model for social-economic indicators for urban scale climate studies.

It is the aim of Planning Malaysia Journal to encourage sharing of knowledge on various aspects of urban planning. This is reflected in the inclusion of articles in this issue that touch on design, economy, environment and governance aspects of planning. It is hoped that with the inclusion of such articles, it would further encourage researchers and practitioners to continue sharing their knowledge and findings on urban planning studies and experiences.

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