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## PREFACE

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### *Sustainable and Resilient Cities: The Way Forward*

Our environment today is changing because of the rapid urbanization and this scenario has intensified as we face the climate change affect. The challenges and issues that we experience today are more complex, multifaceted and are becoming more visible and frequent. Cities are vulnerable and at the same time have to play significant roles in tackling climate change through various actions of preparedness, mitigation and adaptations. Cities are complex systems combining spatial and non-spatial elements. A system, which consists of interconnected and interdependent elements, can only function well if these elements interact with each other. These elements comprise physical environment, social, infrastructure and economy. The interaction among the elements enable the city to function as a whole. In this context, to achieve a sustainable and resilient city requires a collaborative effort from various disciplines and interrelated expertise to address each element. The increase on the awareness and interest in the related research areas have witness the upsurge on the efforts towards achieving sustainable and resilient cities. Every day new studies and findings emerged from scientists, researchers, academics and scholars deliberating on ways to mitigate, prevent and prepare for the future risks that may pose impact to our cities either physically, socially or economically.

Planning Malaysia Journal aims to continuously become the platform to provide the opportunity for academicians, researchers, practitioners and scholars to share and discuss their novel findings. Hence, this issue of the Journal explores the theme of “Sustainable and Resilient Cities”. To achieve sustainable and resilient cities requires a holistic, collaborative and cross-discipline effort. It is evident in this issue of the Journal, contribution of articles come from various disciplines discussing issues, new findings and potential solutions to ensure integrated and inclusive approach is achieved.

The articles published in this issue are divided into several sub-themes namely sustainable urban planning and design; environmental studies; sustainable architecture; transportation management and planning; sustainable asset and facilities management; and finally, disaster risk reduction and management. The first sub-theme, Sustainable Urban Planning and Design, consists of articles that address issues on resilient cities such as ‘*Malaysia efforts in transforming Melaka into resilient cities*’, issues within the public spaces are discussed in the articles ‘*Physical characteristics of a public space*’, ‘*Comfort character for traditional street users*’, ‘*Urbanization and its impact on public spaces*’, ‘*Universal design in urban public space with disability*’, ‘*The appropriate open space quality indicator for children in high-density settlement*’

and issues on walkability in cities are captured by authors of '*Factors towards achieving a walkable city*', and '*Factors influencing the willingness to walk to the bus stops in Penang Island*'. Issues on urban design are captured by authors of '*Regenerating urban marketplace identity*' and '*Inheriting city: Georgetown UNESCO world heritage site*'. Meanwhile, '*Bonus zoning as zoning regulation tool to provide public space in Bandung*' highlighted the need for a proper management on bonus zoning for sustainable planning.

For the Environmental Studies sub-theme, the article '*The viability of an integrative framework for urban design and regional environmental justice*' offers an insight on the impact of Malaysian urban design planning policies on environmental justice, while an author from Indonesia have explored issues on the violation factors of the ground floor coefficient that could increase water runoff. Other articles under this sub-theme include '*Sustainability assessment for higher education institutions*'.

Sustainable Architecture sub-theme comprises three articles that look into issues related to the architectural practices and history of architecture. '*Architectural practices of project communication management in Iraq*' assessed the needed competencies and skills to increase the effective implementation of project communication management. '*Mosque: A statement of citizenship*' explored the role and contribution of mosque within a non-Islamic environment, while '*Identity and Malaysian city*' looked into issues on how to represent a universal Malaysian identity reflecting Malay Asian character with Islamic vocabulary. '*Measuring the sway of imperceptible factors in shaping the distinct character of ancient Indian architecture and city planning*' looked into the impact of intangible factors such as traditional belief and religion in shaping the astonishing character of Indian architecture.

The transportation management and planning sub-theme consists of three articles exploring issues on the relationship between distance to city centre and land price, the sustainability of intra-urban toll way system and the toll road traffic performance with case studies in selected areas of Indonesia.

Under the sub-theme of Sustainable Asset and Facilities Management, two papers addressed ageing community; '*Ageing in place framework as reference guide for housing in Malaysia*' and '*Social capital among ageing residents of housing*'. Though the researches were conducted in two different countries and confronting different aspects of the issue, both papers have similar aim, which was to enhance the standards of living for senior citizens within urban areas. On the other hand, the article '*Mediation effect of social aspect in the relationship between environmental and economic aspects*' revealed that green commercial office property enjoys various advantages, which translate as significant attribute of the property towards being sustainable and resilient. Other articles under this sub-theme include '*Understanding facility management in helping solving poor indoor environment quality*' and '*Valuer's behavioural*'

*uncertainties in property valuation decision making*'. Finally, the sub-theme of Disaster Risk Reduction and Management include articles such as '*Disaster risk management in Malaysia: issues and challenges from the perspective of agencies*' that identified three major issues and challenges of DRM in Malaysia and '*Key issues in the management of the humanitarian aid distribution process during and post-disaster in Malaysia*' that explored the issues on the distribution of humanitarian aid during disasters.

Lastly, through the compilation of these diverse research articles, we hope that this issue of Planning Malaysia Journal would become a useful reference for researchers and stimulate further researches in relation to sustainable and resilient cities.

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*Guest Editor*

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