

FEATURES

CHINESE NEW YEAR GREETINGS



16 FEBRUARY 2017

ABOUT MEMBERS

CILTM, UNIKL AND TRANSGLOBE SCHOOL OF LOGISTICS AND AVIATION MANAGEMENT



Discussion On Internship and Mobility Program for 60 Logistics and Supply Chain Students from India on 28 January 2017

16 FEBRUARY 2017

SEMINAR THE IMPACT AND PROSPECT OF SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORTATION AND LOGISTICS

Date : 16 February 2017

Time : 8.30 am to 2.00 pm

Venue: Seri Anggerik Hall, Hotel Seri Malaysia, Kangar, Perlis



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PAM PHOTO HUNT 2017 – WARISAN KOTA KITA



WARISAN KOTA KITA

PAM Photo Hunt 2017

Fees: Rm 100 (per group)

Min 2, max 4 pax per car

(min 1 PAM member)

Please refer to entry form attached

Program:

- 0800 Registration of participants at PAM at Jalan Tandok,
Distribution of car stickers and goodies
- 0815 Briefing by organizer
- 0830 Arrival of VIP
- 0840 Group Photo
- 0900 Flag off by VIP
- 1530 Return to Centre
- 1600 Photos selection and submission, Judging of photos
- 1630 Prize giving ceremony, photo session
- 1700 End of Warisan Kota Kita, PAM Photo Hunt 2017

Safety Reminders:

1. Drive safely.
2. This is not a racing event. Do not run in when in shopping mall or on the road or in any premises.
3. Do not damage nature in your pursuit for the best photo
4. Be courteous, park properly even at roadside, do not obstruct traffic flow.

Game guidelines:

1. First destination is point 01. Key in to WAZE or Google Map "PAM Centre at Jalan Tandok"
2. Drive to PAM Centre at Jalan Tandok navigate by apps or follow map given.
3. Read question 01 and answer with photo according to the element required in the question.
4. Answer all 10 questions in 6 hours. Allocate your time.
5. To navigate, key-in the name that we have provided for each station.

Important:

- Ensure that your car is in good condition
- Prepare your own first aid kit in your car
- Bring your own camera equipment & spare batt
- GPS co-ordinates will be provided
- You may use WAZE, Google Maps or GPS navigator
- Bring your own powerbank
- If you bring laptop, make sure it is fully charged as there are not enough power points
- Bring raincoat or umbrellas, just in case
- Bring extra clothes and slippers
- Come with good mood, leave as a prize winner!

Destinations

PAM Centre at Jln Tandok | Batu Caves | Sungai Buloh Leprosy Settlement | Klang Royal Gallery | University of Malaya

Rm2500 CASH PRIZES to be won plus many more

Meet you at
PAM Centre at Jalan Tandok
19 February 2017, Sunday
8:00am - 5:00pm

Enquiries
Email: heritagephotohunt@pam.org.my
No: 03-22062866 (Ridzwan)

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Pertubuhan Akitek Malaysia (PAM) is organizing the PAM Photo Hunt 2017 – Warisan Kota Kita which will be held on Sunday, 19 February 2017, 8.00 am – 5.00 pm @PAM Centre, Bangsar, Kuala Lumpur. An exciting destination selected for the hunt such PAM Building, Batu Caves, Sungai Buloh Leprosy Settlement, Klang Royal Gallery and University of Malaya. The space is limited to 20 group only and first come first serve basis.

- [Flyers programme](#)
- [Registration form](#)
- [Rules and Regulations](#)

For enquiry, please contact PAM Secretariat at 03-22022866 (Muhammad Ridzwan) or email to heritagephotohunt@pam.org.my for more details.

VALUE DETERMINATION OF INTANGIBLE ASSETS

Date : 20th -24th February 2017

Venue: RISM Sabah Branch, 3rd Floor, Lot 25-3, Block-D, Lintas Square

88300 Kota Kinabalu, Sabah, Malaysia (above Maybank Lintas)

Course Fee Per Participant:

(Inclusive of GST, Certification by WTI, Notes, 2 Teas and 1 lunch daily)

RISM Member @ USD 1,210.00

Non-RISM Member @ USD 1,280.00

Registration Deadline:

BEFORE 10th February 2017

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CURRENT ISSUES

PHARMACEUTICAL BODY COMMENDS HANDLING OF HOVID PRODUCT RECALL

TheEdgeMarkets.Com, 10 January 2017

KUALA LUMPUR (Jan 10): The Malaysian Pharmaceutical Society (MPS) has applauded the Health Ministry, National Pharmaceutical Regulatory Agency (NPRA) and Hovid Bhd for their transparency and accountability in addressing Hovid's recent licence revocations.

"All parties acted fast in getting the information to the public," said MPS president Amrahi Buang in a statement today.

He was commenting on the "transparent, efficient and responsible" handling of the recent recall of Ternolol 50 tablets by all three parties, as well as the subsequent cancellation of Hovid's manufacturing licences.

"However, our main concern is the safety of the product user and we hope that all the medication in circulation is returned to Hovid soon," Amrahi said.

Although it would not speculate on the root cause as the investigation is still ongoing, MPS said the society and its members have helped made the message viral on social media with other pharmacists to ensure the recall information was shared widely.

Amrahi said the Malaysian public lack awareness of the regulatory process in the country, adding that the people are not well informed on how to check for registered products and are unclear about recall procedures.

"Due to the lack of understanding, many incorrect assumptions are made and shared on social media in an irresponsible manner," he said.

Nevertheless, he said the NPRA is tasked at ensuring that therapeutic substances approved for the local market are safe, efficacious and of quality via product registration, licensing (manufacture, import and wholesale), monitoring of adverse drug reactions and market surveillance.

Amrahi added that the NPRA only approves a drug registration after it has undergone a stringent screening and approval process of between six and 18 months, depending on the product classification.

Once a drug has been approved, regular post-market surveillance is done to ensure registration compliance.

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SPURRING ON YOUNG CREATORS IN ARCHITECTURE

The EdgeProperty, 9 February 2017



AS the saying goes, home is where the heart is. But the rising number of local graduates leaving the country to pursue careers abroad is a cause for concern.

In the last few years, developments like Iskandar Malaysia have been launched in the hope of stemming the brain drain and increasing the workforce in several industries. This includes architecture, which has seen a gradual increase in graduates leaving to work overseas, or choosing not to pursue the profession at all. Defined as the process and the product of planning, designing and constructing buildings, architecture strikes a fine balance between creativity and professionalism, and is often viewed as one of the toughest professions in the construction industry.

Together with Benéton Properties Group executive chairman Tan Sri Chan Sau Lai, the Malaysian Institute of Architects (PAM) recognises the need to encourage and cultivate creative young people to a pursue career in architecture. Launched in August 2011, the PAM Tan Sri Chan Sau Lai (TSCSL) Architecture Awards aim to foster young talents in the country.

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“Architecture is indeed a tough profession. Generally, it takes years for an architect to be recognised. The PAM TSCSL Architecture Awards is a great opportunity for graduates to be acknowledged with an award that has meaning, and is mediated by ... distinguished architects and industry professionals. We believe this is a source of pride for young talents, and we hope the awards will benefit the profession in the long run,” says Chan, the benefactor and founder of the awards.

According to PAM, its objective is to demonstrate its and the benefactor’s commitment to architecture. It is to recognise design excellence by students of architecture and to introduce these final year students to the profession and the industry.

This may be the final cycle (fifth cycle) of the PAM TSCSL Architecture Awards, PAM adds. Last month, a panel comprising Chan, co-founder Boon Chee Wee, PAM president Mohd Zulhemlee An, past PAM president Chan Seong Aun, past PAM president Saifuddin Ahmad and convenor Amzar Ahmed sat down with *City & Country* to discuss some highlights of the PAM TSCSL Architecture Awards since its launch in 2011.

***City & Country:* Please share the history behind the PAM TSCSL Architecture Awards.**

Chan: We started the conversation in 2009. We considered the impact of competition on young graduates. We wanted to create something that would encourage them and recognise and value their projects. Since their launch in 2011, the awards have seen a positive response; hundreds of entries have exceeded our expectations.

We wanted to do something that was an initiative of the PAM and include a panel of experts to award the graduates. We wanted to give them confidence to pursue the industry and to propel them in their careers. Since the launch of the awards in 2011, we have invited fellow Asean architects from Singapore, Thailand and Indonesia to join our panel of judges.

We think the awards are advantageous for the graduates, and to be recognised by PAM and renowned local and foreign architects ... would look terrific on their CVs and it would be beneficial for their future careers.

The awards also draw public attention to PAM. And, like all industry non-governmental organisations, we need to draw attention to PAM to help educate the public on the practice of architecture. After five years, we are currently in the process of deciding how to move forward with the awards, whether to continue or to pursue similar initiatives for the institute.

Boon: One of the reasons we initiated the awards was that we sensed a loss of talent. Today, a lot of architecture graduates choose not to continue in the profession after only one or two job interviews. We find some students overseas do not return as well. We wanted to create talent retention and encourage young people to stay in the profession.

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These are the first architecture awards for graduates in the country, and the first awards that allow the flexibility of presenting projects in person or electronically [Skype, for example] to allow Malaysians in foreign universities to participate as well.

We wanted to expose the graduates and train them to transition from the university to the professional working environment. They may have external examiners for their university projects, but the environment is different from the professional environment. The awards also give them a chance to speak to prospective employers. We believe these are the first student awards in the country to offer the highest grant.



How has the award benefited the architecture industry, and what are your views on the calibre of young graduates and architects in the country?

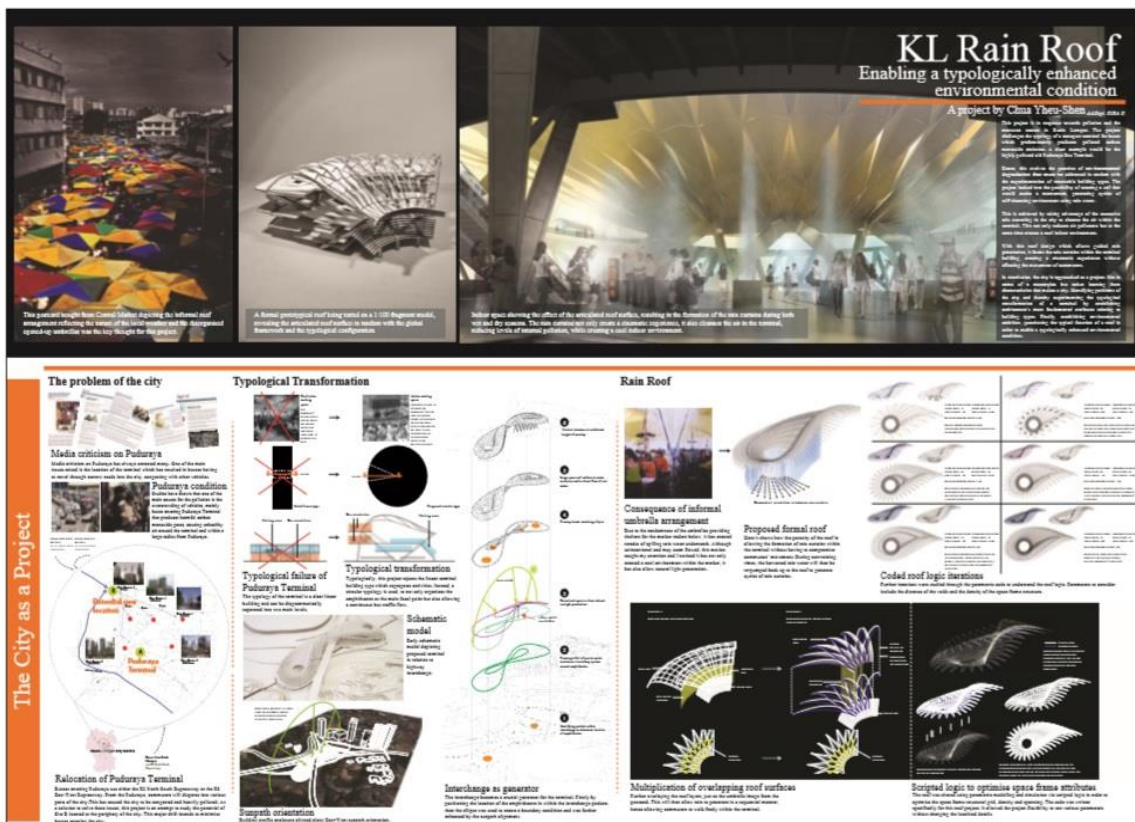
Chan: Oftentimes, we find that, as architects and artists, we tend to lack confidence in ourselves, especially in the early years of our career. However, judging by the number of entries we consistently receive every year (over 100), we believe that through these awards, the level of confidence has increased among young architects in the country. It shows that these young talents are confident that their submissions are good enough for the competition. In creative industries such as architecture, interior design and so on, it is good to receive a pat on the back every once in a while.

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Boon: For the first few years, we had to work hard to create awareness of these awards. What is interesting is that we find the entries are crossing borders, due to the openness of our communication (to present in person or electronically). For example, we have received a submission from a Malaysian student who is studying in Australia, yet the project is being designed for a development in Mauritius. We find this sort of involvement inspiring for the industry.

Seong Aun: In terms of the calibre of younger architects and their submissions, we find that the entries have improved over the years. The proposals have tended to become bigger, more ambitious and more challenging and presentation styles have improved, be it from participants from local or foreign universities. PAM has publicised the winning entries in booklets, so the public can see and appreciate the exceptional work of the graduates.

Saifuddin: Some of the proposals are beyond impressive. It is interesting to see the different styles of proposals by the graduates (depending on their school and background). In fact, during presentations, we are often surprised by the level of professionalism displayed by the graduate. Some showcase work that some of our firms could not have achieved. Some appear as though they have been working for a few years. In that respect, the profession and young graduates [and young architects] are indeed advancing.



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What are some of the most memorable proposals in the last five years?

Mohd Zulhemlee: For this year's cycle, although we have not announced the winners yet, we have seen some of the most exciting and complex projects so far. I think these awards bring out the best competition among the participants. One of our favourite projects is 'The Living Thames Barrier', the winning proposal by Wong Guan Xiong of the Architectural Association London last year, that challenges the extortionate cost of conventional barrier typology.

The proposal looks into using the area over the river to create a new 'barrier city' with residential and commercial components, which can generate significant return on investment by also functioning as a hydroelectric power generator for upcoming developments in London. His design attempts to tackle some of London's main concerns, such as the underdeveloped east side, the preparations for the estuary airport and the need for a new flood defence barrier.

Chan: Some of the submissions border on the extreme, some are rather futuristic. But the whole idea of the awards is that we are looking at design talents. That a project receives an award does not necessarily mean it is buildable. We are more interested in the idea. We have seen proposals that are sublime, poetic and calm; they don't have to be bombastic.

A lot of the proposals tackle current issues. For example, the first winner, Mak Thur Pei of the University of Western Australia (2012), looked at the issue of low-density housing in Australia, which was quite an interesting solution, and also 'The Living Thames Barrier' project by Wong Guan Xiong, which attempts to find solutions and overcome the issues surrounding London's east side. We realise that a lot of the proposals are growing more sustainable as well. We reckon the universities are encouraging the students to do more research and find these architectural solutions, which is good.

Saifuddin: One of the most memorable graduates was Mazlin Mohtar of the University of Melbourne (2013), who presented ideas for an airport structure. She presented her proposal in a manner that was as if she had been a professional for many years, as opposed to a young graduate.

Boon: We were also particularly impressed by Michele Julieana Vaz of Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM) in 2014, who examined the idea of (structures) for multi-faith funerals. For her to tackle a subject that is sensitive and morbid, and she did it it very calmly, impressed us.

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Is there a difference between proposals by local graduates and foreign graduates?

Boon: Overseas graduates tend to go for a simpler concept than graduates from local universities [who tend to go for grandiose proposals]. At times, we find there is too much visualisation, which makes it hard to see the interiors of the structures. Some of the winning proposals in the past have had simple renderings that were enough to carry us through their projects. The graduates are concerned about making the visuals photogenic or 'Instagrammable', but we do appreciate simple drawings and strong concepts.

There is a common thread in all the past winners; most of them won because their projects were convincing. The winners were the ones making their own decisions and the ones who chose the major aspects of their proposals, such as the site and the direction of the projects. We also find that local graduates tend to present a lot of analysis, whereas overseas graduates tend to be forthright and focused on solutions.

I think the PAM TCSL Architecture Awards is a good platform for graduates to explore their own vision and design principles and just embrace the freedom of design. We are drawn by what appeals to them. Some graduates tend to frame or morph certain ideas into what they think we would want, when in fact we are more interested at looking at their core ideas, not ours. Most of the winning schemes display confidence in their own ideas.

What are some of the highlights of the awards since they were initiated?

Mohd Zulhemlee: It is rewarding for us to present the awards to the winners. During one of our award ceremonies, one of the winners revealed that his parents had encouraged him to become an engineer instead of an architect. Despite having different ideas on career paths, his parents were there during the ceremony and they looked so proud as he received the award. That was probably one of the most heartwarming highlights of the awards.

Chan: There was one graduate from Sabah who studied in Perth. Her father was an architect as well. And when she won the award, her father flew in from Kota Kinabalu to see her receive it. He was such a proud parent. He was proud that his daughter had exceeded him at a younger age.

I think the awards have their own joys and disappointments. The joy lies in seeing the winners when they receive their award, they are just so happy. The disappointment is in seeing the ones who did not win. So much work and energy goes into submitting a proposal. The foreign graduates may also have to deal with the time difference, some may have just got out of bed and there they were, defending their proposals to us. It is disappointing to see those who came so close to winning an award. However, we are confident that the awards have been beneficial to all parties.

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Saifuddin: It is also gratifying to see where the winners are today. One of the winners, Chua Yheu Shen of Architectural Association London (2013), has kept in touch. Since winning the award, he has worked with big firms such as Fosters + Partners and KPF, and he is still actively participating in local competitions organised by PAM and Dewan Bandaraya Kuala Lumpur. We believe the awards have given him a platform to launch his career, and although he is currently based in London, he is still looking at local projects. This is what we are trying to achieve, to nurture these talents and to encourage them to work locally [and/or work on local projects as well].

What are some of challenges faced throughout the awards?

Boon: We would have liked to have more participants and reach out to more graduates. Perhaps 50% of the graduates who have submitted their proposals had not heard of PAM prior to that. It is our intention to create more visibility for PAM, so we can increase participation and activities around the awards.

Some universities have expressed frustration over the timing of the awards, which may not coincide with their semesters. But it is one of those things that, as professionals, we have to juggle as well, as far as making presentations, introducing schemes and meeting clients is concerned. So it is good that they are learning how to juggle several schemes in a short time frame.

Amzar: Our biggest challenge thus far has been to reach out to graduates abroad, especially those who are studying in the US. Because it is quite difficult to locate where the students are and the US is such a vast country with one too many architecture programmes. We have not reached as many as we had hoped. Perhaps there are Malaysian architecture students studying at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) or Yale University, but it has proved to be difficult to get them to participate in these awards. This has been our biggest disappointment.

Mohd Zulhemlee: This year, we tried to overcome this problem by referring to the Malaysian Student Department and we have found four, one in Washington, DC, one in Los Angeles, one in New York and one in Chicago, but it was difficult to get them to participate. This is something we will continue to work on in the future.

What's next for the PAM TCSL Architecture Awards and PAM?

Boon: What we have achieved in the past five years goes to show how much can be done for the local architecture industry. We are looking at ways to improve the awards and are currently considering what may work. We may reconfigure the programme or look at other options to contribute to the industry and to help young talents. The details will be revealed once we have concrete details and solid plans.

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Mohd Zulhemlee: We would like to continue to promote the practice of architecture and to bring architecture, arts and culture together.

Chan: We hope there will be a stronger lead in promoting architecture, arts and culture in Malaysia. Singapore, for example, has the President's Design Award that is led by the government and helps promote architecture there. This type of initiative would help educate the public about this profession. We hope that our government would lead such initiatives in the future. We do have publications and magazines but they are mainly distributed among professionals. But it would be good for PAM to have more visibility via more publications or even TV programmes to address, critique and honour the local architecture industry. We believe it would be a boost for the nation.

More about the awards

The PAM TSCSL Architecture Awards, currently in its fifth edition, invites Malaysian students who have just completed a Master's of Architecture course (LAM Part 2 or the equivalent in the immediate preceding year), in Malaysia or abroad who are current PAM members. Past award winners are not eligible to participate again, however previous finalists, including recipients of commendation prizes, are eligible to submit. Schools of architecture may submit on behalf of the students.

Each year, the jury shortlists up to eight finalists and interviews them in person or via video conferencing. Finalists are required to make a presentation on their projects.

Some RM50,000 worth of prizes are awarded: the architectural award winner receives RM25,000 and a certificate; first runner-up, RM10,000 and a certificate; second runner-up, RM5,000 and a certificate; and up to five finalists RM2,000 and a certificate.

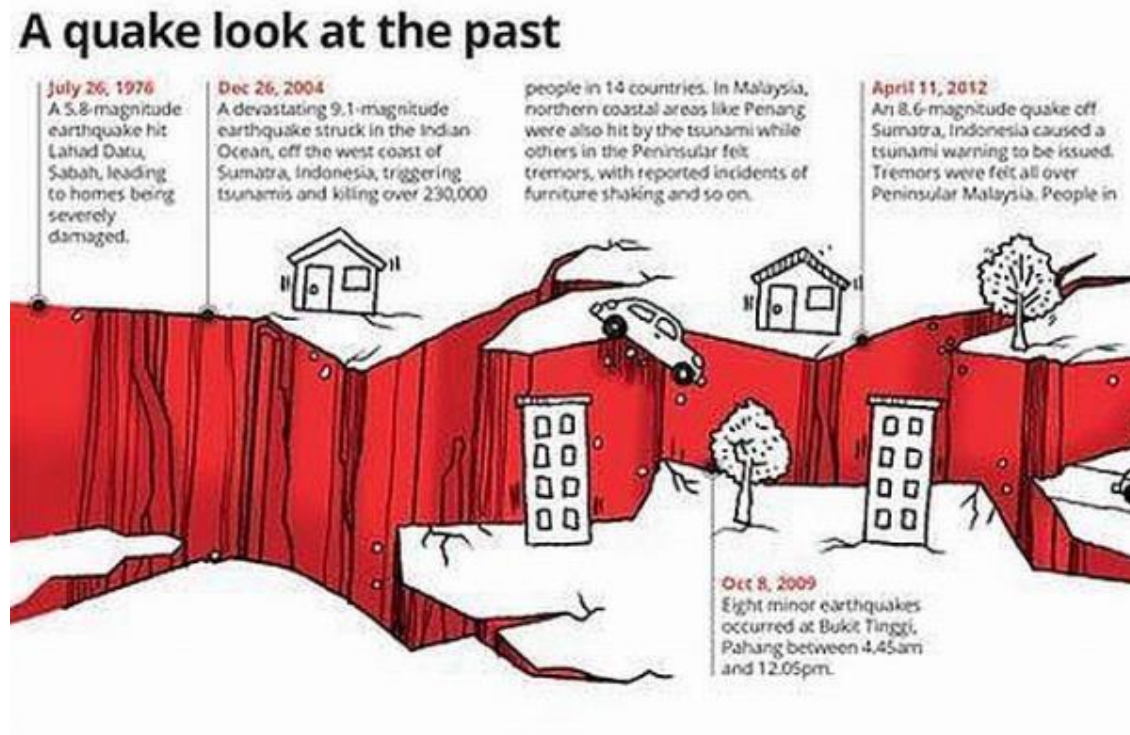
Past recipients of the PAM TSCSL Architecture Awards are Mak Thur Pei of University of Western Australia (2012), Chua Yheu Shen of Architectural Association London (2013), Fairuz Abdul Aziz of the University East London (2014) and Wong Guan Xiong of Architectural Association London (2015).

The jury this year includes benefactor and founder Tan Sri Chan Sau Lai, co-founder Boon Chee Wee, PAM president Mohd Zulhemlee An, past PAM president Datuk Dr Ken Yeang, architect Dr Tan Loke Mun, interior designer Lai Siew Hong and Indonesian architect Daliana Suryawinata. Winners of this year's cycle are scheduled to be announced on Feb 21.

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SAFER BUILDINGS IN THE WORKS

The Star, 12 February 2017



WE may not be in the Pacific Ring of Fire, but let's face it – Malaysians are not immune to earthquakes.

Last month, a 5.6-magnitude earthquake struck near Medan, Indonesia. But its ripples reached Peninsular Malaysia where tremors were felt by residents in Penang and other areas.

In a more devastating event, a quake measuring 6.0 in magnitude rocked Ranau in Sabah, leading to the deaths of 18 people on June 5, 2015.

A year later in August, a three-second tremor sent residents, climbers and hotel guests scrambling when a 4.0-magnitude earthquake hit the area around Mount Kinabalu.

No major earthquakes have struck the peninsula so far but this doesn't mean it is spared.

Few will remember but in 2009, eight minor quakes were recorded in Bukit Tinggi, Pahang.

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More vividly perhaps, those here may recall the tremors felt from the catastrophic 2004 Indian Ocean earthquake near Sumatra, Indonesia, which brought upon the tsunami.

Some Klang Valley folks literally felt the earth moved under their feet while others watched in disbelief as frames on walls swayed on their own.

Our authorities are leaving little to chance now.

New buildings will soon be able to better resist earthquakes and tremors with a design code for buildings currently being drafted to raise safety standards of structures.

The code is expected to be ready by October this year, reveals the Department of Standards Malaysia (JSM), which comes under the Science, Technology and Innovation Ministry.

“It will be applicable to all buildings including houses, commercial areas, landed properties and high-rise buildings.

“But for now, the finer details of the code are currently being deliberated by a working group,” the JSM tells *Sunday Star*.

Such efforts are a timely development as more Malaysians are moving into condominiums and apartments, with about 30% of the urban population currently living in such high-rise buildings.

But while the code is a welcomed move to ensure the safety of the people, there is one downside – it could lead to more expensive properties.

“When the code is published, it isn’t mandatory for all buildings to follow as it is up to the local authorities to impose such standards.

“But there is likely to be additional costs to make buildings more earthquake-resistant in line with the code.

“This could possibly raise construction costs by about 5% to 10%,” the JSM estimates.

Among the features that can be incorporated to buildings to help it weather quakes are the use of reinforced concrete and seismic rubber bearings.

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The group drafting the code comprises officials from relevant government agencies such as Malaysian Meteorological Department (MetMalaysia), Minerals and Geoscience Department, Public Works Department (JKR), Sabah Housing and Real Estate Developers Association, Institution of Engineers Malaysia (IEM), Association of Consulting Engineers Malaysia and other seismic experts.

One of the key points that needs to be ironed out is the Peak Ground Acceleration (PGA) value, which will ultimately determine how much ground movement a building can withstand in the event of a quake.

However, the JSM says determining the PGA value is quite a challenge as Malaysia lacks data on earthquakes, unlike its neighbours which have a longer history of such phenomena like the Philippines.

“With such limitations, it is tough for experts to come up with the value,” explains the JSM.

Calling the quake in Ranau “a wake-up call for everybody,” Science, Technology and Innovation Minister Datuk Seri Madius Tangau says he hopes to introduce the building code as soon as possible.

“Once we have an agreement among the experts, we can finalise the code. The code will have to be approved by the ministry first, just like all standards introduced in Malaysia.

“The only way consumers can feel safe is for us to have such standards.

“We have a job to do and we cannot compromise on safety,” he assures, adding that MetMalaysia is closely monitoring the country’s seismic activities.

Efforts to come up with the earthquake design code was reported by *StarMetro* in 2015, whereby the IEM had said the Eurocode 8 (EC8) is to be incorporated into Malaysian standards.

IEM president Tan Yean Chin says the design code is not to make buildings earthquake-proof as it would be very costly, but rather to increase resistance against tremors if it happens in future.

“Having earthquake-proof buildings is also unnecessary for a low seismic risk country like Malaysia,” he says.

He explains that IEM and others in the working group, are coming up with a Malaysian National Annex to support the EC8, with design recommendations especially for new building structures, which will suit a low seismic risk zone like Malaysia.

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“When the code is approved, each state has its own jurisdiction to determine when to adopt it. Once it is adopted, then all new buildings will have to follow the code.

“As for existing buildings, it will be up to the owners’ discretion to seek advice from professional engineers to assess whether such structures need to be upgraded or retrofitted to comply with the code,” Tan explains.

Fortunately, he assures that owners of present buildings shouldn’t be overly concerned.

“To date, buildings in Malaysia, particularly in the peninsula and Sarawak are considered safe based on records over the past 100 years or more in terms of earthquakes,” he says.

Despite some high-rise structures in the Klang Valley experiencing “swaying” from the 9.1-magnitude Indian Ocean earthquake in 2004, no structural damages were reported.

“This means that existing buildings are still safe after the incident. Therefore, adopting the new code is just like an added measure to improve safety,” Tan says.

He says nobody can predict where and when the next earthquake will strike, even in a low seismic risk country like Malaysia.

Tan explains that tall buildings are more vulnerable to distant earthquakes because high rise structures have lower frequencies in vibration, resonating with the low frequency of seismic waves from distant earthquakes.

“As such, high rise buildings (exceeding 30m) in western Peninsular may be affected by tremors from distant earthquakes such as from Sumatra.

“On the other hand, such tall buildings can better withstand close-range earthquakes compared to shorter buildings.

“This is because the high frequency of vibration from the nearby quake will resonate closer with shorter buildings, causing more damage,” he says.

Concurring with Tan, JKR civil and structural engineering branch senior director Kamaluddin Abdul Rashid says past records show that magnitudes of local earthquakes in Peninsular Malaysia are relatively low.

“If this continues, buildings designed in accordance with the existing Uniform Building By-laws 1984 are considered safe.

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“It has been generally accepted by local structural engineers that the impact of seismic tremors from earthquakes in neighbouring regions on Malaysian buildings is not likely to be catastrophic,” he says.

But in Sabah, Kamaluddin says, the local authorities are more cautious and have decided to include the requirements for seismic loads as a criteria before issuing planning permissions.

However, the issue of public safety in the event of earthquake is not confined to providing good building design alone.

“As building owners, we need to ensure that our buildings are well maintained and in good condition.

“A study by JKR found that the risk of building failure in an earthquake is significantly higher for ill-maintained buildings compared to well-maintained buildings that have not been designed according to seismic standards.

“Thus, it is money well spent to maintain buildings because they will better withstand earthquakes,” Kamaluddin adds.

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MONT KIARA WATER HEATER EXPLOSION PREVENTABLE

Free Malaysia Today News, 13 February 2017

Regulation on installation and maintenance of household water heaters is lacking.

FMT LETTERS



By Tan Yean Chin

The Institution of Engineers, Malaysia (IEM) is concerned over the report of a water heater exploding in a condominium in Mont Kiara on Feb 9, 2017.

It was fortunate that no lives were lost in this incident. The water tank type water heater is different from the instant type, as there is heated water volume stored.

There are several reasons why explosions can happen in the water heater system, especially the gas heated type.

Water has dissolved minerals and sediment. When water is heated, the minerals can get deposited as scales on metal surfaces within the tank – as happens in a kettle. The sediments in water would settle at the bottom of the tank.

The scales and sediment build-up could lead to many problems, but most importantly it becomes a barrier between the heat source at the bottom of the water tank and the water being heated.

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This barrier forces the tank to work harder to heat the water, which could affect the integrity of the tank floor. Regular draining of the tank will prevent sediment build-up.

Heated water tanks are equipped with a temperature and pressure relief valve. This safety equipment ensures that the tank does not get overly hot or over pressurised.

Over time, scaling or sediment can block and hamper the ability of the relief valve to operate properly. A failed relief valve could cause an explosion should there be a fault with the heater's thermostat.

The maintenance of the relief valve will require the service of a qualified technician, who should be familiar with the particular water heater model.

The gas burners in water heaters are usually well engineered and have built-in safety features. Modern heaters have an electrical igniter to light the burner.

However, when the igniter does not light up the burner within the pre-requisite time or gas flow is poor, an explosion could occur when gas flows into the main burner. An explosion by gas could also happen when the ventilation pipe is obstructed and there is no sufficient air or the flue gas is not exhausted.

In Malaysia, we have stringent regulations on gas supply and larger industrial boilers. The gas supplying company's responsibility and maintenance is usually up to the metering point. The gas pipes and the gas heating equipment that uses the gas is the home owner's responsibility.

In short, the regulations on maintenance of these household water heater are lacking.

IEM would be willing to work with the authorities concern to draw up additional regulations or guidelines.

Tan Yean Chin is president of The Institution of Engineers, Malaysia (IEM).

BIM MEMBER INSTITUTIONS

- Malaysian Pharmaceutical Society (MPS)
- Royal Institution of Surveyors Malaysia (RISM)
- The Institution of Engineers Malaysia (IEM)
- Pertubuhan Akitek Malaysia (PAM)
- Malaysian Medical Association (MMA)
- Malaysian Dental Association (MDA)
- Malaysian Institute of Planners (MIP)
- Veterinary Association Malaysia (VAM)
- Malaysian Institute of Interior Designers (MIID)
- Malaysian Society of Soil Science (MSSS)
- Malaysian Association of Social Workers (MASW)
- The Plastics & Rubber Institute of Malaysia (PRIM)
- Agricultural Institute of Malaysia (AIM)
- Institut Rimbawan Malaysia (IRIM)
- The Chartered Institute of Building Malaysia (CIOBM)
- Institute of Landscape Architects Malaysia (ILAM)
- Institute of Internal Auditors Malaysia (IIAM)
- Institut Bahan Malaysia (ICMM)
- The Chartered Institute of Logistics And Transport Malaysia (CILTM)
- International Institution of Plantation Management (IIPM)

CORPORATE AFFILIATE

- Malaysian Association of Productivity (MAP)
- Malaysian Institute of Human Resource Management