

## KEYNOTE ABSTRACTS



## PRIME KEYNOTE

### MALAYSIA: A GREENER TOMORROW

**Tun Dr. Mahathir Mohamad**  
Former Prime Minister of Malaysia (1981-2003)  
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## K01 Keynote: Greener Tomorrow

### Best Practice for Greener Tomorrow

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The professional practice of landscape architecture has never had a fixed definition. Rather, the practice grows, adapts, and evolves responding to global and regional limitations, opportunities and challenges. In today's context of globalization, environmental problems have become increasingly interrelated and complex. Major crises include infrastructure failure due to rapid urbanization, mismanagement of rural areas, exploitation of natural resources, and the loss of relationship to ecosystems in the face of sweeping climate change. Tackling these challenges requires deep interdisciplinary collaboration, and it further redefines the realm and expands the body knowledge of landscape architecture.

Within this new paradigm, some best practices for a greener tomorrow include: 1) **Information Integration:** Finding new ways to map, synthesize understand and interpret the vast amounts of information landscape professionals must absorb, filter, represent, and translate into action. 2) **Holistic Approach:** A transparent, thoughtful design decision making process offering greater opportunities for engagement, feedback, and informed discussion is necessary. 3) **Design for Future Change:** Every design intervention is one movement a series of many, the appropriateness of which should be scaled against time, long term benefits, needs of future generations, and overall stewardship of the land.

In this presentation, SWA Group is honored to share our 50+ years of experience in perfecting landscape planning and design practice. Case studies including innovative design solutions incorporating and adapting new **Greener Technology** and metrics; Synergies between education, economy and environment for **Greener Tourism**; and Preservation and transformation of **Greener Heritage** to pass down our collective memory to future generations.



## K02 Keynote: Greener Technology

### Application of Greener Technology - Sustainable Use of Natural Resources in Urban Stormwater Management

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The introduction of Urban Stormwater Management Manual for Malaysia by the Department of Irrigation and Drainage (DID) Malaysia in 2000 has since changed the perceptions of stormwater management in the country. The control-at-source approach recommended by MSMA is generally accepted as the way forward in stormwater management as opposed to the conventional rapid disposal approach. This article introduces the sustainable urban drainage system (SUDS), one of such system would be the Bio-ecological Drainage System (BIOECODS), developed by River Engineering and Urban Drainage Research Centre (REDAC), Universiti Sains Malaysia. The BIOECODS is a stormwater drainage system designed with the concept of SUDS in mind, and as a result, is fully complied with the MSMA requirements which focus on the control of both the quantity and quality of urban runoff. The concept, components and functions of BIOECODS are presented herein. Performance of the system in the USM Engineering Campus site, which is the national pilot and show piece project of MSMA is also presented. A series of continuous research and monitoring carried out by REDAC found that stormwater is effectively controlled in quantity and quality. The system is a living proof for feasibility and multi-benefits of MSMA implementation. The success of the BIOECODS implementation proved that with innovation, MSMA can be successfully implemented without compromising on the overall project cost, aesthetic, and function. BIOECODS also testified that the current stormwater management concept is ready to face the challenges of climate change.

*Key words: Greener technology, SUDS, BIOECODS, stormwater management*



## K03 Keynote: Greener Tourism

### Sustainable Tourism: New Zealand Perspective and Experience

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Landscape architects and environmental managers who contribute to sustainable tourism in New Zealand need to understand the type of tourist who is attracted to New Zealand: what those tourists are seeking and how this aligns with local values and expectations. Landscape architects contribute to planning, design and management of sites visited by tourists, whether specifically for an activity or in conjunction with general travel through New Zealand. In addition landscape architects contribute to policy and management work on environmental quality and impact minimization, ecological rehabilitation, and design for low impact development. New Zealand was not a blank slate at the start of the 19th century and tourists are also attracted to indigenous and heritage tourism.

This paper considers the context for sustainable or low impact tourism in Aotearoa/New Zealand and the attention given to tourism development in the last 15 years. The services that our small landscape architecture profession can provide to land managers and tourism operators is considered in this economic, political, policy, environmental, resource management, planning and social context. Aotearoa/ New Zealand remains isolated but our landscape design and management practices add value to the visitor experience and our frontier culture is now more sophisticated.

*Key words: Low impact, sustainable tourism, landscape architecture*



## K04 Keynote: Greener Heritage

### A Landscape Master Plan Approach towards a Greener Heritage with Special Reference to Bako & Kubah National Parks, Kuching

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Rapid urbanization in the recent years had not only seen very fast rate of deforestation in rural areas but spurious land conversions in the cities. Spaces that were once considered as unbuildable such as former mining land or urban wetlands are now 'reclaimed' and developed to house even tall buildings. Concessionaires are always on the look-out to construct new linkages to the already numerous toll highways which are now covering the city like a mesh of spaghetti and in the process divide wildlife habitats into smaller and unconnected areas contributing and dwindling the size of natural aquifers. All these are happening when the concern on global warming is getting more intense.

Awaken from their slumber and non-caring attitude by natural catastrophes in recent years more architects are now collaborating with landscape architects to accommodate greens in their building besides adopting green technology. All these seem to be paradoxical since they keep on intensifying the loss of nature on the ground by leaving as little space as possible in between buildings. These attempts have the smell of window-dressing as they look patently insincere because they are not borne out of real awareness but motivated by incentives. By leveraging on existing nature reserves in and around the city as well as keeping remnant urban green, coupled with 'reclaiming' those that were lost, the suffering urban population could be re-connected with nature again as they should be. An urban master plan aiming at connecting into a comprehensive network of urban greens those pockets and salvia as well as those on the fringe would slow down and perhaps halt altogether the loss of urban green thus making our cities more livable ecologically as well as climatically. Bako National Park and Kubah National Park will be used as examples to explain this approach. With this effort then perhaps we envision a legacy of greener heritage composed of environmental corridors connected to the urban centre that will give rise to many environmental benefits (masalah al-bi'ah) to the city population. Selected other successful examples would also be referred to in the discussions.