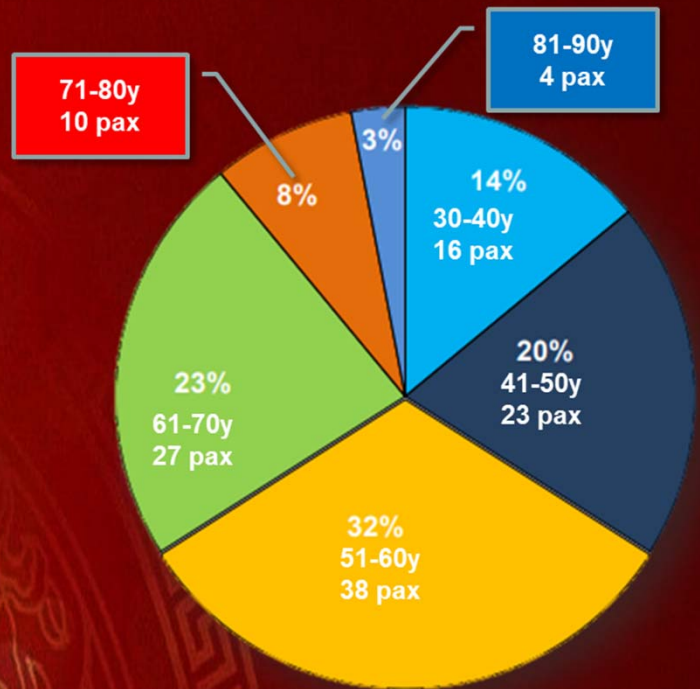


CAN I HAVE A MINUTE OF YOUR TIME? ... the chairman

Dear fellow architects,

- Imagine you are about to participate in a trek and field run, say 400m dash, threading nervously to the starting line... your knee on the track with clear instruction from the starting judge hovering everybody's head.
- On your mark, get set..... BANG! You run as fast as you can and when you are just about to pick up momentum, you hear the second blast of the gun. It could only mean one thing, you have to restart again. You give a sigh of frustration and slowly walk back to the starting point.
- Now, repeat that scenario 10 times. That's how I felt on the current situation. Nevertheless, we have to live with it and with the vaccine at the horizon, hopefully things would improve and back to normality soonest possible.
- On the P3 exam matter, Chapter's Grad Rep Claudius Lee has been tasked to gather feedback and comments from the Sabahan candidates. We have officially submitted our findings to LAM and PAM and were reliably informed it had created a stir.
- Some of the main issues are the clarity on answering the questions especially on fees and lack of feedback on what they have answered wrong. Similarly, on the locality consideration on some of the questions such as on Land Code and CCC.
- The chapter has done an analysis with regards to the number of professional architects in Sabah according to age group. About only 33.3% is below 50 years old, with the most 65 numbers between the 50-70 years old. Refer graph.
- With such a wide gap of age, we are losing in numbers in comparison to other professionals in the industry. The more reason to have more young professional architects in the fold, either in practise or involvement in the Chapter. Low passing rate for P3 is not really helping the cause.
- One of the strategy of the Chapter in uplifting the practise is to have more presence in Local Authorities and policy making agencies. But it is difficult if you have a small pool of architects to draw from, and that doesn't consider those willing to serve for the profession.
- Chapter has been heavily involved in the updating of Sabah's UBBL, and is currently reviewing it with MLGH. Definitely looking into the professional submitting person (PSP) aspect of it and to ensure that only LOCAL AND ARCHITECTS be able to submit the relevant plans. Of course to also update it especially with consideration for Green Building Index (GBI) as to make it relevant to current needs for sustainability.
- Apart from that, MLGH requested feedback from the industry on how to improve the housing industry in the aspects of technology, materials, infrastructure etc.. Interestingly MLGH remarked that they need more constructive suggestions rather than outright complaints, and we hope our recommendations are on that line. Nevertheless, a bit of complaint won't harm right?



- PAM KL recently had a dialogue with Ministry of Local Housing. As usual the grouses are inefficient plans processing and approval mechanism by the local authorities. As far as the ministry is concerned, unless there are specific complaints i.e. who, what, where etc., the system is working fine and there to assist the industry players.
- What an irony, we complained a lot but nobody willing to lodge officially thus the authorities deem everything is in order. Thus PAM is compiling a survey among members on these issues and submits the outcome and analysis to the ministry.
- Recently, an article by Datuk John Lo in a local daily, under the heading of Sabahan First, touched on "submitting" architects. He also put it up that whether local professionals are not good enough to do the jobs.
- The Chapter is quite consistent whenever we engaged government agencies to emphasise local appointments of Sabah based architects, whether for State or Federal projects. Policy and mechanism is in place only that the implementation is not really enforced and also due to "back door" arrangements.
- The State is in the process of formulating policies and the Chapter and other professional bodies are actively involved to ensure our interest is assured and protected.

On a lighter note, pleased to inform that our local architect artist Ar Patrick Vun, a winning watercolour painting of his (BAF Sketching Competition) has been chosen by DBKK as their courtesy gift to the TYT. Congratulations Ar Patrick and hopefully would motivate others to showcase their talents.

Another new year is coming, so wishing my Chinese friends and those celebrating it, which by the way happen to be all Sabahans, Happy Chinese New Year... Gong Xi Fatt Cai... and "Hung Pao Na Lai"...

- Take care and stay safe always...



PERTUBUHAN AKITEK MALAYSIA Sabah Chapter

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Jan 2021