

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

Dear fellow architects,

- Time waits for no one.
- An apt reminder for all of us. It was just as if 2020 was recently behind us, but now we are into March 2021.
- I hope everyone had a great and wonderful Chinese New Year and Chap Goh Mei, though with the necessary precaution. Can't be too reckless with the Araimaiti especially with Sabah Covid-19 positive count has dropped greatly for the past month. Though the national statistic is still quite worrying.
- For the info of our future professional architects, pleased to inform that PAM KL has responded to our feedback with regards to P3 exam. Based on the what has been gathered by our Grad Arch rep, more talks/seminars on topics which relates more on Semenanjung practise i.e., Land Ordinance, CCC etc... Thus, we have conveyed this to PAM KL and are expecting programs to cater for our local grads.
- It was great to see two of our wonderful lady architects, Ar Tressie Yap and Ar Sharon Amin, giving out talks on gender equality in PAM CPD Unlimited program. It was the first ever virtual online CPD event with participation from all over Malaysia. It's quite interesting to note that Sabah has generally achieved 30%-woman participation in various sectors compares to Semenanjung, though a lot of improvement that needs to be looked into. But I'm sure with PAM's involvement, we are moving on the right direction.
- On another note, we would like see more Sabahan architects giving out talks and seminars. It is about time we expose and educate our counterparts in other places in Malaysia on matters and issues in Sabah.
- Chapter has been actively involved behind the scene engaging with the government via various platforms such as Sabah Construction Consultative Council (SCCC) and Sabah Economic Advisory Council (SEAC).
- Via SCCC the objectives a more general with the current emphasis on how to reduce construction cost in Sabah. With CIDB in SCCC, the professionals are working hand in hand with them on how to improve on the standards of constructions in Sabah via comprehensive adoption of assessments and guidelines such QCLASSIC and SHASSIC.
- We have the opportunity to be more specific with regards to the issues affecting the professionals with SEAC. One of the main points brought up is prioritising Sabahan based architects and consultants for local projects.
- SEAC also advised the professional bodies to be united in order to have weight and say on issues affecting the building industry. A point which we should seriously looked into.
- Chapter has also participated in DBKK's Town Hall meeting in conjunction with DBKK's 21<sup>st</sup> Anniversary albeit it being a virtual session. Among others, further to DBKK's strategy to be a green and smart city, Chapter has remarked that it is imperative that holistic approach be adopted rather than piece meal basis. A local standard like GBI is a good reference to start with Chapter offering assistance in preparing the necessary framework and structure.
- Apart from that, a business-friendly approach by having efficient and fast planning approvals would be greatly helpful in kickstarting the local economy due to the pandemic.
- Chapter is always in the look out to look after the interest of the profession. The latest is the effort of ILAM (Institute of Landscape Malaysia) to lobby for sole right to submit landscape plan.
- Generally, we have no objection for Landscape Architects to submit landscape plans but by denying architects to submit is in conflict with the scope as prescribed by our Architects Act. Interestingly, landscape architects do not have their own act thus unlike Acts for the architects and engineers which authorize the latter to do so and being regulated accordingly.
- We have written our opinion to both MLGH and DBKK, until the landscape architects have their own Act to empower them to do so, they should not deny the architects from doing something which is already in their scope.
- Courtesy visits are being arranged at the moment to meet up with the MLGH Minister and DBKK Mayor. We need to emphasise on the issues affecting the profession and industry as a whole, and the architects to be the forefront in assisting the economic recovery of the State.
- My term as chairman for PAM Sabah Chapter is nearing its end. As usual, nomination forms should have been circulated to the members and I'm looking forward for younger members to join and be part of Chapter in driving the profession.
- Continuity and good balance between the young and the seniors should put the Chapter in good stead for the years to come.
- Take care and stay safe always...



**PERTUBUHAN AKITEK MALAYSIA Sabah Chapter**

Website: [pamsabah.com](http://pamsabah.com)

**Feb 2021**