

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

Dear fellow architects,

- Here we go again, CMCO extended till 6th December 2020 albeit looser conditions unlike the one imposed earlier this year. Cases have been triple figures for the past months with deaths increasing by the days. Announcement of vaccines is something of a good news and hope reaches our shores soonest.
- Federal budget was presented with mixed reactions, made worse by political brouhaha. Hoping those announced for Sabah could be disseminated and utilised regardless as soon as possible and in tandem with the State's budget to drive our ailing economy.
- At least LAM, PAM and of course the Chapter have decided to reduce the annual registration and admin fees by half. Thankfully the members request was considered.
- With regards to Chapter's first ever Virtual Architect Run, the running period has been extended till the end of the year. Was told some participants have started running indoors during MCO and the figures went up when running outdoors was allowed. Managed to finish mine and hope the others could do so too. They say move your butt off from the couch, leave the potato chips behind and run! :-)
- Upon the announcement of CMCO throughout the State, almost all sectors have had their operations limited and thus adopted new working norm such as Working from Home. Chapter has written to all the major Local Authorities with regards to their operating procedures and hours as we are sure quite a number of members might need to liaise with them on matters especially on plans approval.
- Talking about plans approval, Penang has implemented moratorium for Plans Approval and their validity in which we could bring it up to MLGH for consideration. Meanwhile, appreciate if any members who have such concern to inform to Chapter so for us to have reference point.
- The chapter is taking seriously the issue of engineers submitting plans for development not within their scope such as commercial, residential etc. It has been always in the agenda and memorandum whenever we meet up with the minister and local authorities. The main grouse is the circular issued by LAM which refers to building plan instead of development plan, very likely due to Semenanjung DP/DO being submitted by planners. The Chapter has taken the initiative to write to LAM and with the help of Sabah representatives in LAM, could assist to clear up the issue once and for all.
- Its great that the recent PAM CPD Webinar Kata Kota series, our own senior architect and past chairman, Datuk Ho Jia Lit, has been invited to be one of the panellists for the seminar "Why housing is so expensive in Malaysia". Emphasising on local Sabah context, the points brought up by him are quite



relevant anywhere in Malaysia. It's a pity the time is quite short as the platform was shared with 4 others panellists as I believe the topic requires further deliberation and discussion. Maybe Sabah could organise their own talk on this subject.

Which the Chapter is very capable of organising. For the month of November, 2 webinars have been organised on matters of best practise for waterproofing, metal roofing and BIM. Thank you for the support to our speakers and sponsors Mapei and Bluescope.

We are lining up interesting Webinar topics and should let the members know soonest possible. We would also appreciate feedback from members on the webinar with regards to content, presentation etc. so could improve further for the benefit of the members.

Recently, CIDB and key building industry players (developers, professionals and manufacturers/suppliers) have collaborated to setup the Sabah Construction Consultative Council. A memorandum on issues and proposals will be prepared and shall be presented to the Federal and State governments. Maybe its time collaborative effort such as this be the norm as to have more definitive say to the policy makers on overlapping issues in the industry.

On another note, the professionals have been invited for a dialogue with the Sabah Economic Advisory Council in early December 2020. Its good that the State recognises the importance of the professionals and should work together to strategise to expedite economic recovery in Sabah.

Yours truly and together with Ar Hj Shariman and Jennifer Linggi, have been invited to be panellists for a Youth Forum entitled "Envisioning Green Infrastructure Development for a Sustainable Future" organised by UCSF and Forever Sabah. It was refreshing to see younger generations conveying their concerns with regards to the environment and in their points of view, what could be done and achieved.

- Chapter would be uploading Know Your CC profiles regularly for the members to get to know on those representing them in PAM. The profiles would be a brief outline on their background and statement of their vision and aspiration.

• **GOD BLESS, TAKE CARE AND STAY SAFE.**



PERTUBUHAN AKITEK MALAYSIA Sabah Chapter

Website: pamsabah.com

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