

KNOW YOU CC...

The Nominated Committee Member 2020-2021

- Ar. Yong Ming Cheong

Hello, everyone!

I am Yong Ming Cheong. I started serving the Chapter as an Honorary Secretary from 1995 to 2001 for six (6) consecutive years, and then was elevated to Vice Chairman, Deputy Chairman and subsequently as the Chapter Chairman from 2005 to 2007.

Being the Immediate Past Chairman from 2007 to 2009, I was also appointed to the Central Board at the Ministry of Local Government and Housing where I served for 3 years. Currently, I am still serving at PAM Sabah Chapter, as one of the Past Chairman nominated back to the Chapter Committee. This is my 4th year serving as a nominated member for term 2020-2021 where my role is to look into Education.

My involvement with Education started in the year 2009 being the Past Chairman where I attended the first Educational Sub-Committee formed and organized by PAM KL. At that time, the profession realized that something must be done to address the declining standard of architectural graduates entering the job market for employment ; where most of them will apply to sit for the LAM part 3 professional examination. In fact, the yearly passing rate was so disappointing that this matter was finally taken up by Lembaga Arkitek Malaysia, with the setting up "Council of Architectural Accreditation Examination Malaysia" (CAAEM) or MAPSM (BM name).

The role of this Council was to address the many issues faced by graduates pertaining to the low passing rate at part 3 examinations: the slow registration of graduates where some have to go through part 1&2: list of recognized schools of architecture from foreign universities, etc. Nothing can be done in the short term that can address the low passing rate reflecting the declining standards except to provide more tutorials to guide our graduates intending to sit for professional examination. Meanwhile, another round of examination is conducted to allow for re-sit, so that there is no need for candidate to wait for another year before the examination is conducted again.

I took over the position as Sabah representative 4 years ago to be MAPSM member at Lembaga Arkitek Malaysia. By then, a decision has already been made to do away with the List of Recognized Schools that was inherited from the colonial era. Instead, Malaysia being a sovereign nation, should have our own list of accredited courses from foreign architectural schools for exemption to part 1&2 prior to taking the part 3 professional examination. However, an exception was made based upon Mutual Recognition Accreditation (MRA) whereby if courses conducted by local architectural schools were recognized by foreign Boards/Councils, LAM will extend the same recognition to the courses conducted by schools of architecture of that particular nation on the basis of reciprocity.

their LAM Part 3 exam

Since I have been a member of MAPSM, I have witnessed local as well as foreign schools of architecture applying to LAM for accreditation or validation of their courses. They made very comprehensive presentations of their course syllabus and structures together with the facilities available within their campus site. As the numbers of Malaysian architectural students seeking to further their studies abroad increases, there have been several Australian and British Universities validating their courses while more have applied. At the same time, LAM has also been sending representatives abroad to validate and assess courses.

LAM website will have the updated list of school of architecture with courses accredited or validated for aspiring students who intend to further their architectural studies especially on foreign universities. For graduates who return to Malaysia that do not come from the published list, LAM requires students to go through the normal process of taking part 1&2. Therefore, course work portfolio accumulated must be kept properly for assessment purposes.

Allow me to share some words of encouragement to our young generation of architects. For those graduates preparing for the LAM part 3 professional examination, do continue to put in solid hours into your studies as there are a lot to cover in this field. Best wishes from me & I hope you can make it through. For those starting to build your career in Architecture after your part 3, I wish you every success in all your future undertakings and endeavours. Do come back to help us out, be it on whichever sub-committee that has your interest.

PAM Sabah Chapter needs all available help to take our beloved professional into the next level as we move beyond 2020 and we can only achieve our goal if our human resources are built up. We foresaw that the future of this chapter lies with those younger ones. Being more energetic, innovative, in-tune with the current trend in design, IT savvy, etc., they are our graduate members and each one of them brings to us a different aspect of their personalities and character that can contribute in different ways. That is why PAM Sabah Chapter continues to emphasize the need to have a strong graduate membership base since they are our future. We pledge to assist and guide them in their journey of becoming full fledge corporate members from part 1, 2 and even on the professional examination at part 3. For that, we also request that they come forward voluntarily to help out in the many activities of the chapters as part and parcel of their training by acquiring the needed skills on expression, communication, inter-personnel & interaction, etc. on entry into their working life.

By so doing, we would have ample preparation for our next batch of leaders to take over from the current group that has been serving for a very long time indeed. We believe in them and have confidence in their abilities.

Thank you.

