

# STEWARDSHIP

THE QUEST FOR A SUSTAINABLE  
LANDSCAPE

Ismawi bin Zen  
Izawati Tukiman

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# **STEWARDSHIP**

## **THE QUEST FOR A SUSTAINABLE LANDSCAPE**

*Edited by*  
**ISMAWI ZEN**  
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## Chapter 4

# **ENVIRONMENTAL PARADOX: URBAN DRAINAGE ISSUES**

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### **4.1 Introduction**

Urbanisation in third world countries is believed to have started in the 1970s. This phenomenon has changed the perception of other developed countries in the first and second world (Drakakis-Smith, 2000)<sup>1</sup>. According to Drakakis-Smith<sup>1</sup>, development in third world countries is not equally distributed. Some have successfully been urbanised while others are still left far behind in terms of modernisation. Ranson (1991)<sup>2</sup> suggests that many parts of developing countries have encountered problems such as homelessness, slums and poor quality housing due to rapid urbanisation.

It is believed that urbanisation started as a result of early post-war political strategies (Kemeny, 1992)<sup>3</sup>. For example, in Malaysia, the most rapid urban growth occurred after 1947, during the height of the communist threat where people were moved to safer places (Aiken and Leigh, 1975<sup>4</sup>; Agus, 2002<sup>5</sup>; and Pugh, 2001<sup>6</sup>). It was part of the British strategy to weaken the support for communist by resettling the Chinese communities into new village programmes<sup>5</sup>. However, as