

READERS OF ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING IN MALAYSIA



■ MARIANA MOHAMED OSMAN ■
■ ALIAS ABDULLAH ■ M. ZAINORA ASMAWI ■



IIUM PRESS

INTERNATIONAL ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY MALAYSIA

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EMAIL: iiumprinting@yahoo.com

CONTENTS

	<u>Page No.</u>
Contents	v
List of Tables	vii
List of Figures	viii
Foreword	ix
Preface	x
Contributors	xi
CHAPTER 1: THE LINKAGE BETWEEN TOWN PLANNING AND COASTAL MANAGEMENT: A CASE STUDY OF KLANG DISTRICT, SELANGOR <i>M.Zainora Asmawi and Tuminah Paiman</i>	1
CHAPTER 2: URBAN PARK PLANNING IN MALAYSIA <i>Azila Ahmad Sarkawi and Nur Aulia Rosni</i>	10
CHAPTER 3: THE ROLES OF ECOLOGICAL DESIGN IN GREENING THE SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT IN UPM SERDANG CAMPUS <i>M.Zainora Asmawi and Abdul Razak Abdul Aziz</i>	21
CHAPTER 4: CONCEPTUAL AND POSSIBLE APPLYING LIMITS OF ACCEPTABLE CHANGE FRAMEWORK INTO MALAYSIAN NATIONAL PARK: A CASE STUDY OF ENDAU ROMPIN AND MULU <i>Alias Abdullah, Shamzani Affendy and Chee Hon Loong</i>	29
CHAPTER 5: GIS APPLICATION IN MONITORING DEVELOPMENT PLAN IMPLEMENTATION IN MALAYSIA: WEAKNESSES AND POTENTIAL <i>Alias Abdullah, Rustam Khairi Zahari and Muhammad Faris Abdullah</i>	37
CHAPTER 6: AN URBAN HERITAGE TRAIL OF ALOR SETAR, KEDAH, MALAYSIA <i>Mansor Ibrahim</i>	49

CHAPTER 7:	THE LEVEL OF AWARENESS TOWARDS ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES AND CONCERN AMONG STUDENTS IN TERTIARY LEVEL: CASE STUDY OF UNIVERSITIES STUDENTS IN KUALA LUMPUR AND KLANG VALLEY OF MALAYSIA <i>Mariana Mohamed Osman, Syahriah Bachok and Aisyah Nadhrah Ibrahim</i>	59
CHAPTER 8:	AIRBORNE PARTICULATES MATTER IN MUSEUMS AT PERAK DARUL RIDZUAN AND KUALA LUMPUR, MALAYSIA <i>Shamzani Affendy Mohd Din and Norsyamimi Hanapi</i>	74
CHAPTER 9:	QUANTIFYING IMPACTS OF AIRPORT EXPANSION: A CASE STUDY OF KLIA2 <i>Syahriah Bachok and Syazwani Sahrir</i>	86
CHAPTER 10:	HEALTH IMPACT DUE TO PARTICULATES MATTER EMISSION FROM CONSTRUCTION SITE <i>Shamzani Affendy Mohd Din and Nik Nurul Hidayah Nik Yahya</i>	98

CHAPTER 5

GIS APPLICATION IN MONITORING DEVELOPMENT PLAN IMPLEMENTATION IN MALAYSIA: WEAKNESSES AND POTENTIAL

Alias Abdullah¹, Rustam Khairi Zahari² and Muhammad Faris Abdullah³

INTRODUCTION

Over the past few decades, development plans have been one of the major outputs of the Malaysian town and country planning system. These plans, which were required under the Malaysian Town and Country Planning Act 1976 (Act 172), provide the framework on how an area should be developed (Kadouf & Ainul Jaria Maidin, 2006: "Town and Country Planning Act," 1976). Over the same period, many efforts have been directed by planning authorities in Malaysia towards advancing the plan preparation process. This is reflected in the continuous inclusion of new analytical techniques and the adoption of new tools in preparing the plan. For instance, plans are now subjected to sustainability appraisal and social impact assessment; and computer-aided design (CAD) and geographical information system (GIS) have been used widely in preparing the plans.

Despite all the efforts to improve the development plan preparation process, little attention was given by planning authorities towards monitoring the implementation of the plans. In fact, it was only recently that planning authorities began to look more into how the plans can and should be monitored (Wan Hassan Wan Ismail, 2007).

Failure of planning authorities to monitor the implementation of the development plans has resulted in non-implementation of development projects proposed by the plans (Wan Hassan Wan Ismail, 2007), over development which has led to property overhang, and also has raised question regarding the importance of the plans in guiding the physical development in the country. Goh (1990) states:

"Very little knowledge on the implementation of the various structure plans. Are they being used as they are supposed to or just left on the shelves to be used only as reference by students or scholars?" (p. 5).

This paper discusses present efforts by planning authorities to monitor the implementation of development plans. Nevertheless, discussions are limited to monitoring of State Structure Plans (SSP). A survey was conducted among the States Department of Town and Country Planning (DTCP) in Peninsular Malaysia which already have their SSP gazetted to determine their present SSP monitoring system. Several weaknesses of the systems are discussed and a proposal on a new dynamic monitoring model is put forward at the end of this paper.

¹ Alias Abdullah is a professor teaching in urban and regional planning especially related with GIS studies.

² Rustam Khairi Zahari is a senior lecturer, his researches are mainly focused on housing studies.

³ Faris Abdullah is a lecturer teaching in urban and environmental planning, currently he is undertaking his PhD.