

**A COMPENDIUM OF URBAN AND
REGIONAL PLANNING STUDIES
IN THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT
OF MALAYSIA**

MARIANA MOHAMED OSMAN
SYAHRIAH BACHOK
MOHAMMAD ABDUL MOHIT
MANSOR IBRAHIM



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INTERNATIONAL ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY MALAYSIA

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CONTENTS

	<u>Page No.</u>
Contents	v
List of Tables	vii
List of Figures	viii
Foreword	ix
Preface	x
Contributors	xii
CHAPTER 1: KUALA LUMPUR DRAFT CITY PLAN 2020 LOCAL INQUIRY: AN ANALYSIS OF ITS SHORTCOMINGS <i>Alias Abdullah, Zulaikha Nurulzuhri zahar and Muhammad Faris Abdullah</i>	1
CHAPTER 2: RESIDENTS' PERCEPTION OF SAFETY OF BACKLANES AT TERRACED-HOUSING AREAS IN KUALA LUMPUR <i>Alias Abdullah, Nurul Hana Mustaffa and Muhammad Faris Abdullah</i>	8
CHAPTER 3: EFFECTIVNESS OF NOISE BARRIERS IN RESIDENTIAL AREA: A CASE STUDY OF USJ 3/1 AND USJ/2 OF SUBANG JAYA, SELANGOR DARUL EHSAN <i>Mansor Ibrahim and Mohd Azli Ngateman</i>	19
CHAPTER 4: MANAGING STORMWATER THROUGH LANDSCAPE DESIGN FOR URBAN SUSTAINABILITY <i>Mohd Faiz Musa, Ismawi Hj. Zen, and Izawati Tukiman</i>	32
CHAPTER 5: PROBLEMS OF ALLEVIATING POVERTY IN LESS DEVELOPED COUNTRIES (LDCs) <i>Lukman Hakim Mahamod</i>	39

CHAPTER 6:	MALAYSIA URBAN INDICATORS NETWORK (MURNInet) IN THE CONTEXT OF MAQASID AL-SHARIAH: AN OVERVIEW	49
	<i>Nurul Aida Salim, Azila Ahmad Sarkawi and Alias Abdullah</i>	
CHAPTER 7:	ZAKAT IN MALAYSIAN RURAL DEVELOPMENT	57
	<i>Lukman Hakim Mahamod</i>	
CHAPTER 8:	INEQUALITY AND THE IMPORTANCE OF CENTRALIZING ZAKAT COLLECTION: A CASE STUDY OF PADANG TERAP DISTRICT OF KEDAH	66
	<i>Lukman Hakim Mahamod</i>	
CHAPTER 9:	THE AWARENESS AND PRACTICES OF 3R AMONG STUDENTS TOWARDS WASTE REDUCTION	75
	<i>Mariana Mohamed Osman and Siti Rohayu Yusof</i>	
CHAPTER 10:	A REVIEW ON SIMULATION MODEL OF CROWD MOVEMENT DURING INGRESS AND EGRESS OF STADIUM	89
	<i>Syahriah Bachok and Zulfadly Azizi Bohari</i>	

CHAPTER 8

INEQUALITY AND THE IMPORTANCE OF CENTRALIZING ZAKAT COLLECTION: A CASE STUDY OF PADANG TERAP DISTRICT OF KEDAH

Lukman Hakim Mahamod

INTRODUCTION

One of the priorities in the concept of *zakat* is that its proceeds should be distributed in the locality where it has been collected, particularly among the poor. However, any *zakat* surplus can be used to help *asnabs* elsewhere. For example, in the state of Kedah, every district must give priority to helping its own needy population with the *zakat* collected before distributing it to others. In Kedah, the *zakat* collection in the rubber-based districts is small. Furthermore, there is widespread poverty among the rubber tappers compared with other sectors of the economy. The district of Padang Terap, whose economy is based on rubber, is a typical example. The total *zakat* collected is not sufficient to alleviate poverty effectively, nor is there a surplus to distribute among other *asnabs*. However, the centralization of the *zakat* collection means that any surplus of *zakat* from other districts can be distributed among the *asnabs* in Padang Terap.

PADANG TERAP: ITS SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Padang Terap is an administrative district, where the village used as a case study for this discussion. It comprises about 1,357 sq. km, representing 14.4 per cent of the total area of Kedah. It is the third largest district in Kedah, which consists of 12 *mukims* (sub-regions) and 114 traditional villages (see Map 4.1). Padang Terap is situated on the east side of Kedah, with the districts of Sik, Pendang and Baling. The eastern parts of these districts are hilly areas that run from southern Thailand in the north through eastern Kedah and western Perak to Dindings in the south. In Padang Terap, about 58.7 per cent of its land is 75 metres above sea level (Majlis Daerah Padang Terap, 2002).

MALAY RUBBER SECTOR AND POVERTY

Majority of the population Padang Terap are Malay, agriculture is the main occupation. The status of Padang Terap as an agricultural district also can be seen in its land use: about 42 per cent of the land is used for agriculture. It is the second largest land use after forestry, which covers 50 per cent of the total area of Padang Terap (Majlis Daerah Padang Terap, 2002).