

Land Use Planning and  
**ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY**  
*in Malaysia: POLICIES AND TRENDS*



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**LAND USE PLANNING AND  
ENVIRONMENTAL  
SUSTAINABILITY IN MALAYSIA:  
POLICIES AND TRENDS**

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INTERNATIONAL ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY MALAYSIA

Published by:  
**Research Centre**  
International Islamic University Malaysia

First edition, 2006  
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Perpustakaan Negara Malaysia

Cataloguing-in-Publication Data

Hunud Abia Kadouf

Land Use Planning and Environmental Sustainability in Malaysia:  
Policies and Trends/Sharifah Zubaidah Aljunid

ISBN: 983-2957-93-1

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## MEANING, SCOPE AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PRECAUTIONARY PRINCIPLE: A CRITICAL APPRAISAL

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### INTRODUCTION

The aphorisms ‘better late than never’, ‘better safe than sorry’, ‘look before you leap’, ‘prevention is better than cure’, ‘if in doubt, better do not act’, ‘an ounce of prevention is better than a pound of cure’, and ‘precaution is better than repenting’ are contemporaneous of civilization. Initially, these exerted simply, a moral force against those who wanted to do certain acts, which could later prove to be detrimental to human health or damaging to various processes of the environment.<sup>1</sup>

Later on, development of the civil liability regime pertaining to the tort of negligence and strict liability, added to it the duty of care. With this, a type of risk assessment based on scientific observations evolved. This process enhanced and continued to be improved with the development of science and technology. In view of this, a feeling

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<sup>1</sup> At the same time some in the minority believed in the aphorisms, ‘nothing ventured, nothing gained,’ and ‘let the devil take the hindmost.’