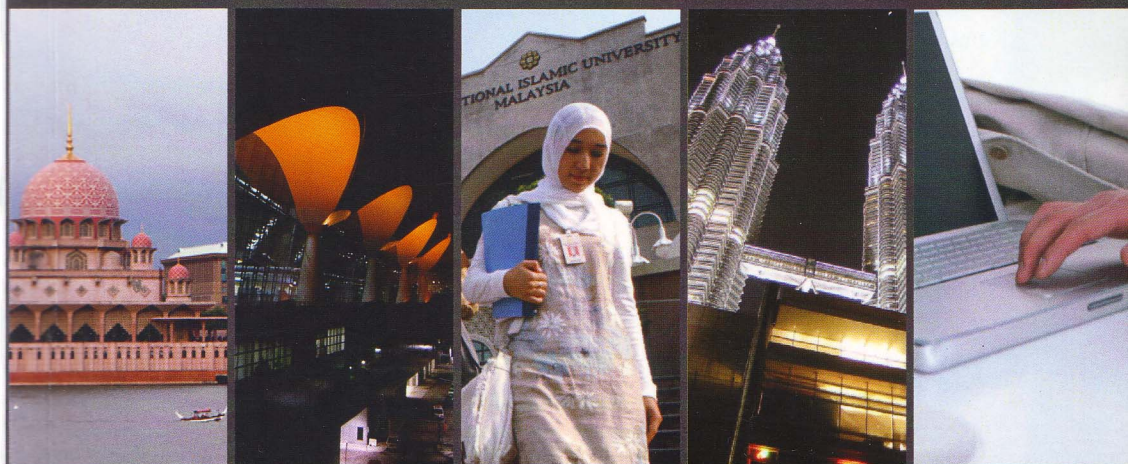


KNOWLEDGE CITIES

FUTURE OF CITIES
IN THE KNOWLEDGE ECONOMY



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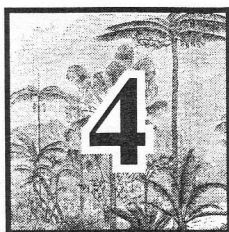
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Promoting Knowledge Cities Agenda through Institutionalisation of Spatial Planning and Decision Support System in Malaysia

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Introduction

Knowledge cities need knowledge societies. Many researchers concurred that development of the human capital into a knowledge society is one of the significant factors that contributes towards the success of knowledge city initiatives (Martinez, 2006; Edvinsson, 2006; Flores, 2006). A knowledge society is a society that makes greater use of information and communication technology (ICT), as well as increases the skills and knowledge of its members to achieve social and individual development (www.knowled gecities.com).

In Malaysia, the efforts toward developing knowledge societies can be seen in many of the government's policy objectives. The Prime Minister of Malaysia himself, Dato' Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, has emphasised the importance of knowledge in human capital development. According to him, "*To develop the human capital, we want our citizens to be fully equipped with knowledge, practice good moral values, have a broad mind, love the country, and possess the physical and spiritual strength*". He also promoted the concept of Islam Hadhari, which among others, reiterates the need for Muslims to embark on rigorous pursuit and mastery of knowledge.