

# 4<sup>th</sup> INTERNATIONAL BUILDING CONTROL CONFERENCE

Intelligence, Sustainable & Resilience in the Built Environment

1ST INTERNATIONAL BUILT ENVIRONMENT  
UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH COMPETITION 2016  
3rd Building Surveying Undergraduate Research Competition 2016

MALAYSIA BUILDING SURVEYOR  
GALA DINNER 2016

A NIGHT OF  
AWARDS

## CONFERENCE PROGRAM BOOK

7<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> March 2016, Pullman Bangsar, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Main Organisers:



Faculty of Built Environment



Building Surveying Div.

In collaboration with:



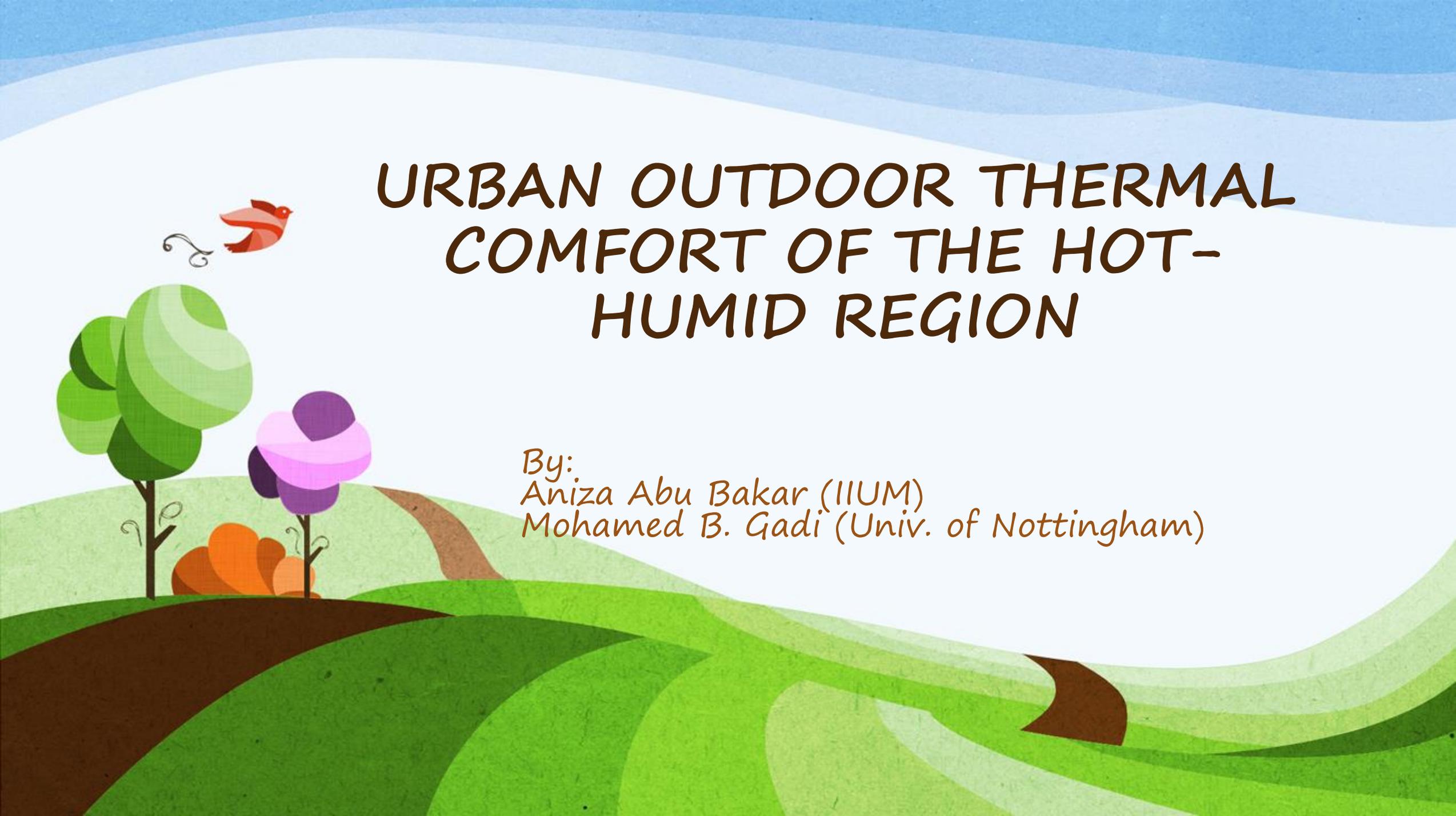
Supported by:



**SUB THEME 1: BUILDING CONTROL & SURVEYING**

**VENUE: BALLROOM 2B**

| <b>Parallel Session 2A</b> |  |
|----------------------------|--|
| 11.00 - 11.10 am           | <p><b>Housing Space Quality Towards Quality of Life: A Case Study of Double Storey Terrace Houses</b></p> <p>Aniza Abu Bakar, Nurhayati Abdul Malek, Mohamad Abdul Mohit, Rosniza Othman and Aliyah Nur Zafirah Sanusi</p> |
| 11.10 - 11.20 am           | <p><b>Urban Outdoor Thermal Comfort of the Hot-Humid Region</b></p> <p>Abu Bakar, A. and Mohamed B. Gadi</p>   |
| 11.20 - 11.30 am           | <p><b>The Relation Between Indoor Environmental Quality (IEQ) and Energy Consumption in Building Based on Occupant Behavior – A Review</b></p> <p>Iman Asadi, Norhayati Mahyuddin and Payam Shafigh</p>                    |
| 11.30 - 11.40 am           | <p><b>The Key Components of Knowledge Transfer for Problem Solving in Adaptive Reuse Projects: A Qualitative Study</b></p> <p>Kartina Alauddin, Mohd Faisal Ishak, Mohammad Nasharudine Shuib and Halmi Zainol</p>         |
| 11.40 - 11.50 am           | <p><b>The Observation of Defects of School Buildings over 100 Years Old in Perak</b></p> <p>Kartina Alauddin, Mohd Faisal Ishak, Haryati Mohd Isa and Fariz Mohamad Sohod</p>  |
| 11.50 - 12.00 pm           | <b>Q&amp;A Session</b>   |

A stylized, colorful illustration of a landscape. The foreground features rolling green hills with dark brown soil. On the left, there is a green tree, a purple flower, and an orange flower. A small red bird is flying in the sky. The background consists of light blue and white wavy bands representing the sky.

# URBAN OUTDOOR THERMAL COMFORT OF THE HOT- HUMID REGION

By:  
Aniza Abu Bakar (IIUM)  
Mohamed B. Gadi (Univ. of Nottingham)

# Introduction

- Previously it has been assumed that indoor thermal comfort theory can be applied to the outdoor environment.
- Due to the dynamic outdoor environment and such, the thermoregulatory model is seen as inadequate in explaining outdoor thermal comfort conditions. Add your third bullet point here.
- Hence, there is an increasing interest in research on outdoor thermal comfort
- Several urban open spaces typology: street plaza, corporate foyer, urban oasis, transit foyer, courtyard, etc

# Urban open spaces and elements of thermal performance evaluation

Solar radiations (short waves -  $R_s$ ) - partially absorbed by the wall and floor surfaces, partially reflected back ( $R_R$ ) and partially absorbed for the evaporation process ( $E_v$ ).

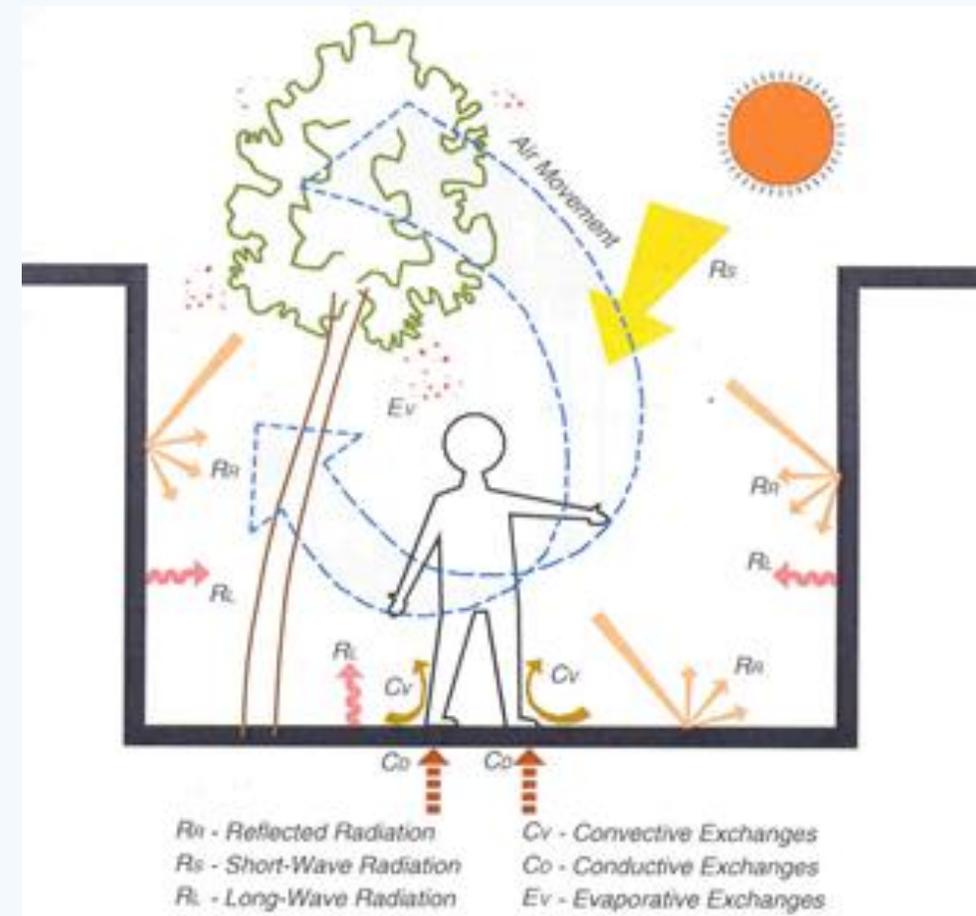
The absorbed radiation - heat the surfaces and create temperature difference between the surfaces (high temperature) and the air layer (low temperature) adjacent to it. Thus, the heat accumulated by the surfaces shall be released to the surrounding through the processes of convection ( $C_v$ ), which is emissivity of long wave radiation ( $R_L$ ), and conduction ( $C_D$ ). The long wave radiations are then absorbed again by elements within the space until an equilibrium state is achieved.

Having greeneries is an advantage as they absorb great amount of radiation through their evapotranspiration (combination of transpiration and evaporation) process with less reflection of long wave radiations.

There is a need to lower the ambient temperatures particularly within the hot and humid regions.

The ground surface material used can be classified as 'cool' and 'warm' materials depending on their ability in absorbing heat and reradiating it to the surrounding.

Energy exchanges between a person and a courtyard space



# Methodology: equipment used, survey time & spatial categories

This study intended to study human response in terms of thermal comfort within the outdoor urban spaces of hot-humid condition.

Thus, survey on thermal comfort and thermal sensation by using 123 university students as the sample was conducted together with collection of physical environmental data

| no  | equipment                        | measuring                             | unit    |         |         |
|-----|----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|
| i   | Whirling psychrometer            | Dry & wet bulb temperature            | DB (°C) | WB (°C) | RH (%)* |
| ii  | Globe thermometer                | Globe temperature                     | °C      |         |         |
| iii | Digital anemometer               | Wind speed                            | m/s     |         |         |
| iv  | Cole-parmer infrared thermometer | Surface temperature (ground and wall) | °C      |         |         |
| v   | Illuminance meter                | Min/max/avg. illuminance              | lux     |         |         |



| Under a tree | Under direct sunlight |
|--------------|-----------------------|
| 0900-0930    | 0930-1000             |
| 1000-1030    |                       |
| 1100-1130    | 1130-1200             |
| 1200-1230    | 1230-1300             |
| 1300-1330    |                       |
| 1400-1430    | 1430-1500             |
| 1500-1530    | 1530-1600             |
| 1600-1630    |                       |
| 1700-1730    | 1730-1800             |

| Semi-shaded | Open      | Covered (alongside the corridors) |
|-------------|-----------|-----------------------------------|
| 0900-0930   | 0930-1000 |                                   |
| 1100-1130   | 1130-1200 | 1000-1030                         |
| 1200-1230   | 1230-1300 |                                   |
| 1400-1430   | 1430-1500 | 1300-1330                         |
| 1500-1530   | 1530-1600 |                                   |
| 1700-1730   | 1730-1800 | 1600-1630                         |

Three environmental readings were taken with the interval of ten minutes for every session of each site. These readings were then averaged.

# Methodology: survey

In each session, the samples were divided into two groups to perform passive (1 to 3 met) and active (3 to 8 met) activities respectively for twenty minutes.

Three main sections of the SQ:

Section A: details on the location, date, day, weather condition and others,

Section B: details of the sample, such as name, age, health condition and others,

Section C: tables on comfort judgment for the sample to tick and a few open-ended questions.

Bedford seven-  
point scale

ASHRAE

| Scale for thermal sensation |               | Scale for thermal comfort |                        |
|-----------------------------|---------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Scale                       | Description   | Scale                     | Description            |
| +3                          | Hot           | 1                         | Very comfortable       |
| +2                          | Warm          | 2                         | Comfortable            |
| +1                          | Slightly warm | 3                         | Slightly comfortable   |
| 0                           | Neutral       | 4                         | Neutral                |
| -1                          | Slightly cool | 5                         | Slightly uncomfortable |
| -2                          | Cool          | 6                         | Uncomfortable          |
| -3                          | Cold          | 7                         | Very uncomfortable     |

Clo value of respondents: from 0.5 to 0.8 (typical clo value among Malaysians)

Shadow analysis was simulated from 0900h to 1800h except for C3, which ended at 1630h as the whole area was already shaded from then onwards

# Locations, orientations, and physical built forms of studied sites

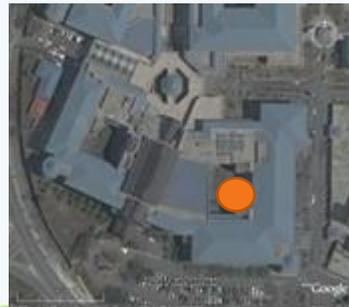
paved courtyard :  
named as *Courtyard 1 (C1)* – regarded as 100% paved;



partially-paved courtyard : named as *Courtyard 2 (C2)*



turfed courtyard : named as *Courtyard 3 (C3)* – regarded as 100% turfed.

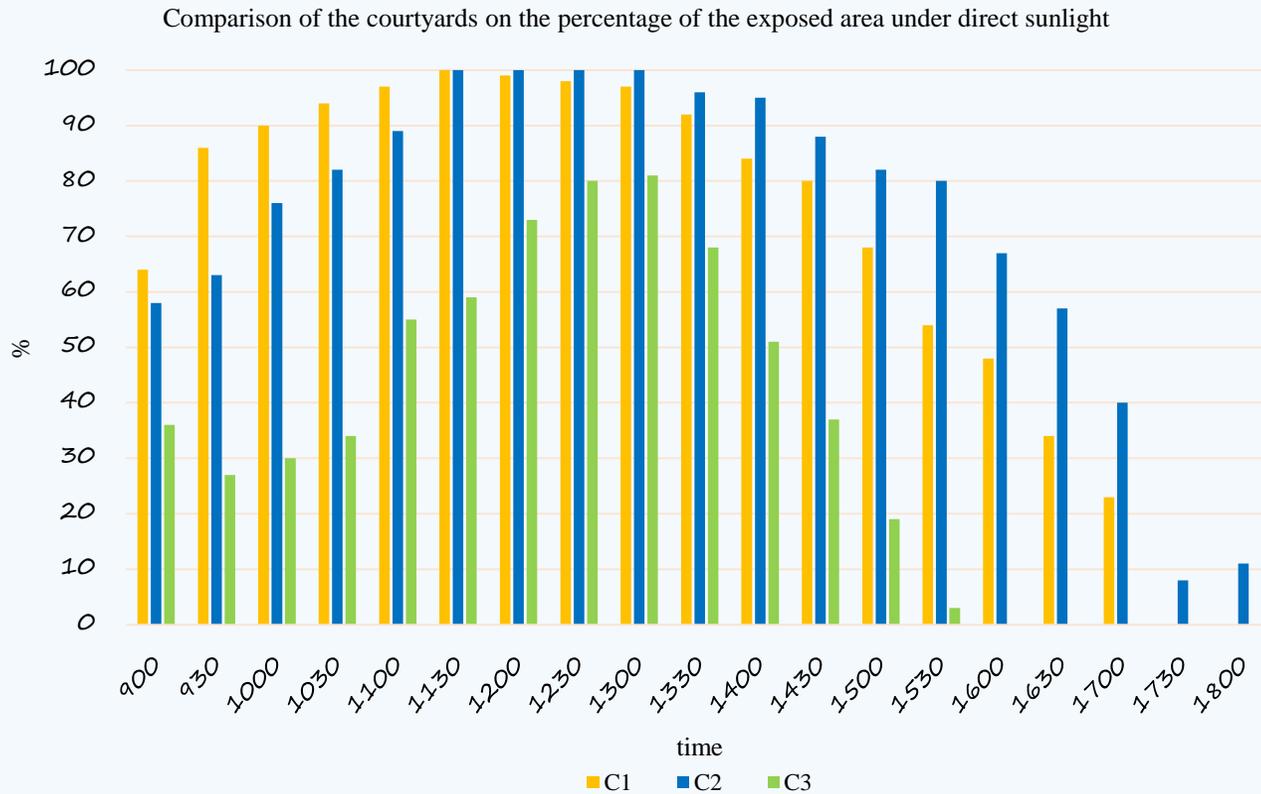


| Surface material of C2 | m <sup>2</sup> | %    |
|------------------------|----------------|------|
| Tarmac area            | 1350           | 54   |
| Rubber matt            | 194            | 7.8  |
| Grass/turfed area      | 184            | 7.4  |
| Paved area             | 772            | 30.8 |
| Total area             | 2500           | 100  |

|              | C1    | C2    | C3   |
|--------------|-------|-------|------|
| Orientation  | 22.5° | 22.5° | 2°   |
| Aspect ratio | 13.81 | 4.62  | 1.86 |

Aspect ratio = area of the courtyard floor / (average height of surrounding walls)<sup>2</sup>  
- used to determine the degree of courtyard exposure to the sky openness that permits heating by the sun

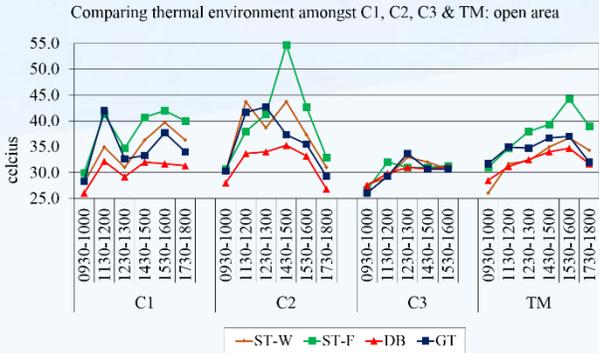
# Shadow analysis



C2 - the courtyard that is highly exposed to the sun with a higher percentage of sunlit area throughout the day, while C3 is the total opposite in terms of results.

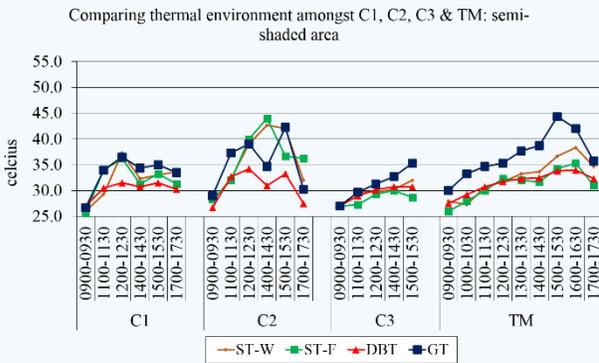
Based on shadow simulation, it is concluded that the physical built forms of these sites greatly influence the amount of areas exposed to direct sunlight. Greater aspect ratio reading indicates that wider areas of those sites are being exposed to sunlight.

# The microclimate



Thermal environment:  
open area is hotter than the semi-shaded area, followed by the covered area.

The difference in every readings seems to be big for the open area, and smaller for the covered area – indicating the role of solar radiation in influencing the thermal environment of the spaces.



Minimum and maximum readings of the RH by sites and spatial categories

|            | ss   | open | covered | ss   | open | covered |
|------------|------|------|---------|------|------|---------|
|            | C1   |      |         | C2   |      |         |
| Min RH (%) | 50.7 | 55.7 | 67.7    | 49.3 | 50.7 | 53      |
| Max RH (%) | 79.3 | 89.7 | 87.3    | 80.3 | 78   | 74.7    |
|            | C3   |      |         | TM   |      |         |
| Min RH (%) | 63.3 | 70   | 61      | 51.7 | 49.7 | -       |
| Max RH (%) | 81   | 82   | 78.7    | 85   | 82.3 | -       |

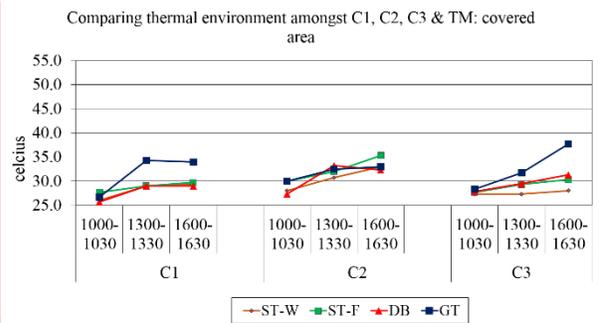
Minimum and maximum readings of wind speed by sites and spatial categories

|              | ss  | open | covered | ss  | open | covered |
|--------------|-----|------|---------|-----|------|---------|
|              | C1  |      |         | C2  |      |         |
| min WS (m/s) | 0.1 | 0.1  | 0.03    | 0   | 0    | 0.03    |
| max WS (m/s) | 4.2 | 3.5  | 0.6     | 3.1 | 1.8  | 1       |
|              | C3  |      |         | TM  |      |         |
| min WS (m/s) | 0   | 0    | 0       | 0.3 | 0    | -       |
| max WS (m/s) | 0.3 | 0.17 | 0.5     | 2.4 | 3.2  | -       |

Highest surface temperature according to level of each courtyard

| Level | C1   | C2   | C3   |
|-------|------|------|------|
| 1     | 41°C | 45°C | 29°C |
| 2     | 41°C | 42°C | 29°C |
| 3     | 41°C | 42°C | 32°C |

the ground wind speed in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, is mild most of the time where strong wind, or gale, is seldom experienced



C2 – highest reading, could be by the influence of tarmac that exist

# Sensation and comfort votes

A thermally acceptable environment is where **at least 80% of the occupants do not express any dissatisfaction (ASHRAE)**. This refers to indoor environment, where the environmental condition is controlled and stable.

However, it is suggested that this percentage should be lowered to **70%** when dealing with dynamic outdoor environment, with great environmental fluctuations throughout the day and, also, taking into account that people nowadays do not normally spend most of their time outdoor. The percentage of 70% represents more than two-third of the number of occupants, which is thought as more reasonable as it still represents the majority.

Percentage of samples voting according to comfort votes by spatial categories

|               | semi-shaded |        |           | open    |        |           | shaded  |        |           |
|---------------|-------------|--------|-----------|---------|--------|-----------|---------|--------|-----------|
|               | Passive     | Active | Sub total | Passive | Active | Sub total | Passive | Active | Sub total |
| Comfortable   | 15.5        | 12.9   | 28.4      | 11.7    | 13.3   | 25        | 15.9    | 14.6   | 30.5      |
| Neutral       | 14.1        | 14     | 28.1      | 13.3    | 13.7   | 27        | 16.9    | 16.9   | 33.8      |
| Uncomfortable | 20.8        | 22.7   | 43.5      | 27.6    | 20.4   | 48        | 19.8    | 15.9   | 35.7      |
| Total         | 100%        |        |           | 100%    |        |           | 100%    |        |           |

more samples felt uncomfortable throughout the survey period, this also means that outdoor environment in hot-humid climate were not preferable most of the time.

# Thermal neutrality model

The environmental conditions and parameters range as voted 'comfortable' by  $\geq 70\%$  samples

|             |      |           |      |      |      | WS   |     | ST    |      |         |        |
|-------------|------|-----------|------|------|------|------|-----|-------|------|---------|--------|
| comfortable | time | DBT       | WBT  | RH   | GT   | min  | max | floor | wall | avg ill |        |
| semi-shaded | C2   | 1100-1130 | 32.7 | 25.5 | 54.7 | 37.3 | 0.1 | 1.2   | 32   | 32.3    | 417.3  |
|             |      | 1400-1430 | 31   | 25.8 | 66.3 | 34.7 | 0   | 0.5   | 44   | 42.7    | 895.3  |
|             | C3   | 1400-1430 | 30.7 | 25   | 63.3 | 32.7 | 0   | 0.4   | 30   | 30.3    | 5498.3 |
|             | TM   | 0900-0930 | 27.5 | 25.5 | 85   | 30   | 0   | 0.1   | 26   | 28      | 10945  |
| open        | C2   | 1130-1200 | 33.7 | 25.3 | 50.7 | 41.7 | 0   | 2.8   | 38   | 43.7    | 557.8  |

Averaged DBT = 31.12 °C, administered in thermal neutrality models

i. Thermal neutrality model 1 [19]:

$$\begin{aligned}
 T_n &= 17.6 + 0.31T_{ave} \\
 &= 17.6 + 0.31(31.12) \\
 &= 27.25^\circ\text{C}
 \end{aligned}$$

(where  $T_{ave}$  is the outdoor average dry bulb temperature)

ii. Thermal neutrality model 2 [20]:

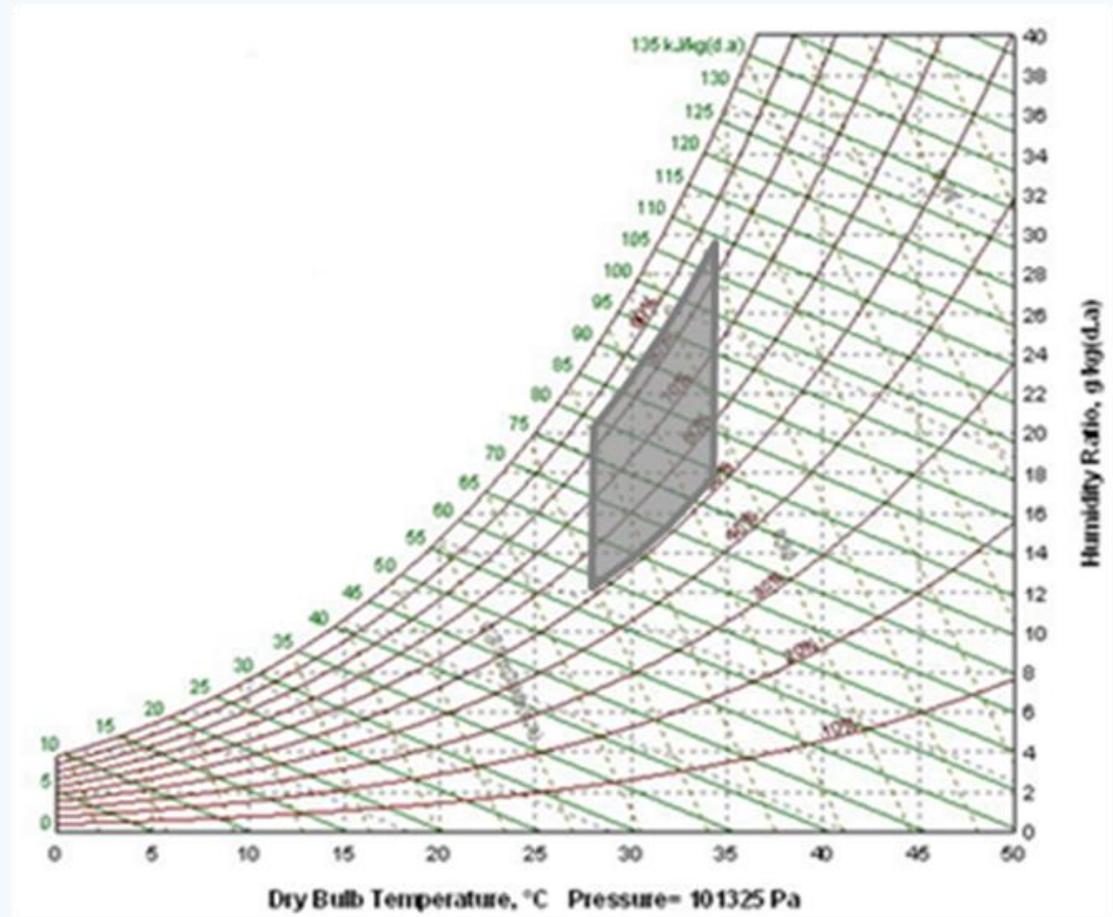
$$\begin{aligned}
 T_n &= 2.56 + 0.831T_m \\
 &= 2.56 + 0.831(31.12) \\
 &= 28.42^\circ\text{C}
 \end{aligned}$$

(where  $T_m$  is the mean temperature for the study on indoor comfort in tropical region)

the thermal neutrality model 2 is more appropriate for Kuala Lumpur as the value of 28.42°C falls within the range of dry bulb temperature.

# developing the comfort zone for outdoor open space of hot-humid region

It is reasonable to take a minimum of  $27.5^{\circ}\text{C}$  and a maximum of  $33.7^{\circ}\text{C}$  from the readings of dry bulb temperature and a minimum reading of  $50.7\%$  and a maximum reading of  $85\%$  for relative humidity to propose the comfort zone for hot-humid urban outdoor spaces of Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. However, it should be remembered that the presence of wind speed of at least  $0.1\text{m/s}$  is a requirement in light of this scenario.



# Conclusion

The proposed comfort zone of the outdoor environment of Kuala Lumpur can be used to monitor the climatical environmental condition. If the climate range falls within the zone, then it is suggested that the outdoor environment is thermally comfortable most of the time for users.

Thermal comfort can be perceived as one of the tools used to study the quality of the environment in which humans live. It may function as an indicator to study changes in the physical environment in relation to human comfort level. Hence, it is suggested that urban monitoring in terms of its climate and landscape changes for Kuala Lumpur must be conducted and recorded closely because, as the biggest city in a developing country like Malaysia, Kuala Lumpur could not stop from experiencing rapid urban form changes or perhaps to slow down its processes due to inter-related needs of the economy and built environment in particular. However, in an attempt to improve the quality of life through economic development, the lives of the current and the future generations should not be jeopardized.

THANK YOU

