Universal design and accessibility: Towards sustainable built environment in Malaysia

Abstract
An overview about the present status of the facilities, awareness and research related to Universal Design in Malaysia since its independence in 1957. For the last 10 years, Malaysia has shown exponential growth in every aspect, and the government has given numerous supports towards attending the needs of disadvantaged groups including women, children, single parents, elderly and Persons with Disabilities (PwDs). Many standards, regulations, code of practice and guidelines have been developed to have good accessibility, connectivity, usability and attractiveness in the built environment. Recently, various groups, including professionals in the building industry have implemented Universal Design and accessibility in their projects and development. The methodology applied includes table research, observation and access audit at several case studies of public buildings in Petaling Jaya. Universal Design is the key to promote the application of universal design in the built environment and product design, as well as to disseminate research findings through international conferences, symposiums, workshops and product competitions. Universal Design is offered as a subject in WUM Architecture programme, to instill graduates in understanding the concept of barrier-free design for all inclusive design and universal design and their application. © 2014 The Authors and IOS Press.

Author keywords
accessibility Universal Design Unit (UDU) Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) Sustainable Built Environment Universal Design

References (31)