



Borneo Blocs

Reported by Ar. Noraini Narodden

With the leaders for Borneo group of architects congregating here in Kuching for PDF 2023, PAMSC has initiated a discussion among the 4 blocs, namely:

- PAM Sabah Chapter; Chairman Ar. Mok Juang Yu, their Committee Members & Secretariat
- Pertubuhan Ukur, Jurutera & Arkitek (PUJA) - Institute of Architects; Chairman Ar. Hj. Abdullah Hj. Ahmad and Committee, Ar. Nabil Hj. Abdullah
- Ikatan Arsitek Indonesia Kalimantan Barat (IAI Kalbar); Chairman Ar. Muhammad Ridha Alhamdani and Vice Chairman, Ar. Yudhirma.

The meeting started off with around-the-table introduction with the main objective; To find avenues where we can work together, having collaborations and sharing opportunities that can mutually benefit Borneon Architects.

The collaboration (online & offline) can be done in various aspects related to architecture:

- A. Education
- B. Architectural and Design Community
- C. Cultural Exploration / Identity

The meeting agreed on the idea of a Summit/ Forum that can be organized in turn by each bloc and building the brand that is unique to Borneo as an united islanders despite the geography and distance.

Ending the meeting on a high, we hope the discussion is the starting conversation for a continued great relationship and more cross border collaborations.



Photo credit: Ar. Ivy Jong

Curating PDF2023

Wee Hii Min & Chai Si Yong

This year we only started in June, and had to work fast. Si Yong and I decided to take it on because we have done two before - and kept in mind the objectives of having an event such as PDF (PAMSC Design Festival):

- To raise design awareness
- To promote fellowship among peers
- To cultivate community engagement
- To earn 8 CPD points before the end of the year. (Especially for our members from outside Kuching).

DESIGN FORUM

I started by inviting **Eric Chen (ArchiBlur Lab, Taiwan)** to be one of the two moderators, he was one of the speakers in PDF2020. He has always wanted to visit Kuching, now he can on the condition that he finds us a Taiwanese architect of renown. He recommended **Lin Sheng Feng (Atelier Or, Taiwan)** who agreed to give a lecture at PDF2023. (Unbeknownst to us at this stage, Lin would later request for an interpreter for his lecture - a post which was filled by Ar. Freddie Lo admirably)

I next invited **Ar. Tang Hsiao Seak (TANGU Architecture, KL)** to be the other moderator; another speaker from PDF2020 (the pandemic edition) He agreed and started putting together suggestions for the theme of the forum.

Richard Kirk (KIRK Studio) was the the next speaker whom we secured, I met Richard Kirk several years before, and liked him and his work. We knew he is familiar with Malaysia and has built some projects in KL. We next looked for speakers in South East Asia. I visited **Shunri Nishizawa (NISHIZAWA ARCHITECTS)** in his Saigon office several years ago and saw his projects. Though initially uncertain about delivering a lecture in English, the lure of visiting Sarawak helped overcome his concerns.

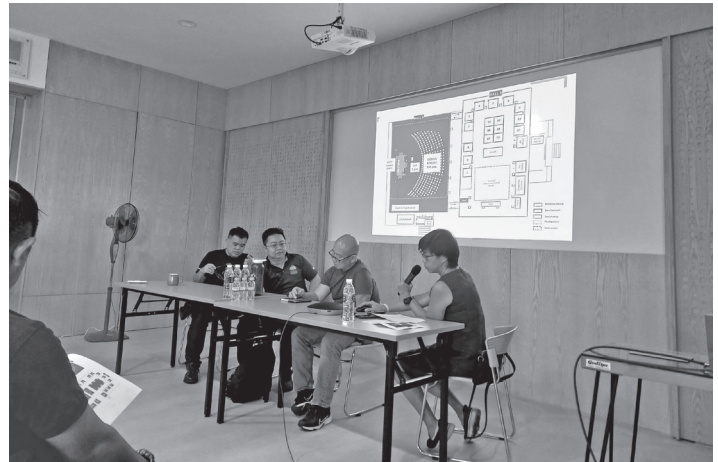
At the end of July, Si Yong with the help of Budi Pradono got us our final keynote speaker - **Dirga from DDAP Architects in Bali**. Next, we wanted to include two younger architects to give them a platform for future lectures and to inspire other emergent voices to speak out. **Thien Chiao Hui (nettleton tribe, Sydney)** and **Goh Tze Hui (Arkitek JFN Sdn. Bhd. Kuching)** were inspired choices. The two young ladies are close friends, both have similar career paths though in different parts of the world.

FRINGE EVENTS

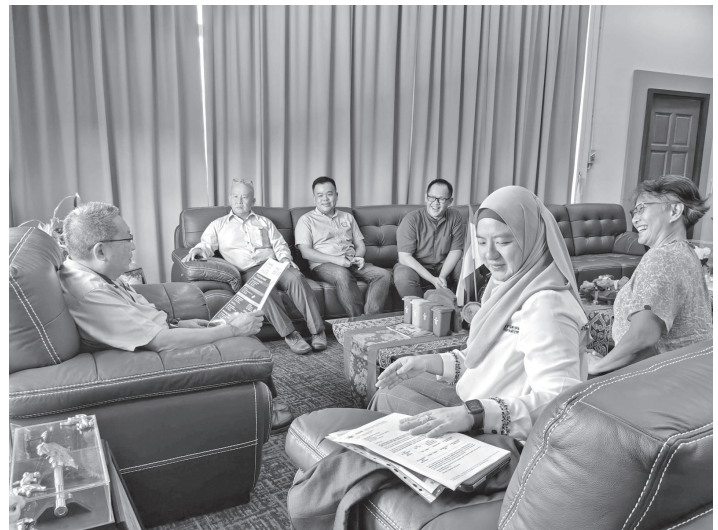
As the date of the Design Forum was late in the year; hotel venues for 300 participants were fully booked on all the Saturdays in November and December. At that time, our collaborator **INTODesign Lab** has started planning for the **CLOUD PAVILION Urban Installation** working closely with the **Kuching South City Council (MBKS)** who provided them with a 'site' in the Council gardens. We applied for and got the use of the Dewan Masyarakat from the 16th-18th of November at a discounted rate.



Meeting the speakers - introducing Lin to his interpreter.



Pik Shia briefing suppliers taking part in our Trade Expo.



Calling in on the Mayor of MBKS to invite him to be our Guest of Honour.

THE VENUE

However, the Dewan had to be fitted out for the occasion - Hall A for the Design Forum, and Hall B for the Trade Expo and University exhibitions, children's colouring competition (organised by yet another PAMSC collaborator; **SCACA Sarawak Creative Arts and Culture Association**), Networking Night as well as the presentation and judging of the Student Design Competition. Carpets, screens, backdrops, kiosks, audio-visual equipment and lighting was installed by an event planner.



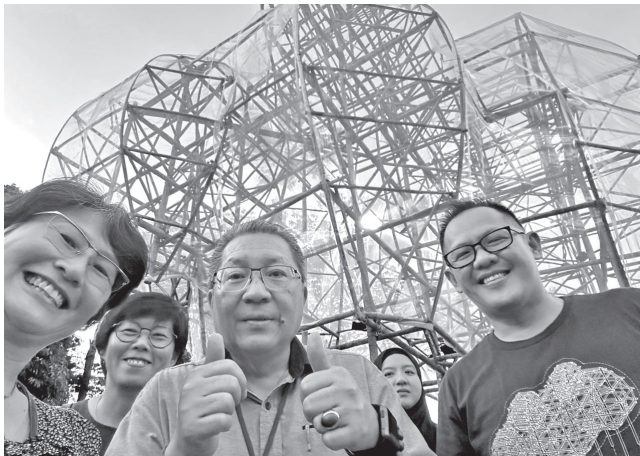
In the month leading up to PDF2023, the team members met weekly to update each other and delegate tasks.



Getting the Dewan ready for the Trade Expo and exhibitions.



The speakers were collected from the airport by familiar faces as part of PAMSC's hospitality scheme.



Mayor Wee Hong Seng launches the Cloud Pavilion.

THE TEAM

Meanwhile, the other aspects of PDF2023 is falling into place. We enlisted young couple, **Ar. Sim Shau Juinn** and his wife, **Ar. Chan Shie Wah** to head the Students Architecture Design Competition. This would include entries from universities throughout Malaysia, and shortlisted teams will be given a travel subsidy to present in person to the jury panel on the 17th of November 2023. Sim and Chan also undertook the task of inviting universities to set up exhibitions during the festival. (Details of their efforts will be featured in a fortnight's time, in FLASH).

The two Laus, **Chun Leong** and **Chee Kiong** organised the catering and detailed planning of the Networking Night as well as the Design Forum which meant working closely with **Ar. Johann Harris Sulaiman** agreed to emcee the events of the Festival. The Trade Expo was organised and managed by PAMSC Treasurer, **Ar. Leong Pik Shia**.

THE PARTICIPANTS

By August, we had released flyers for the Design Forum and the Cloud Pavilion, and by September, we issued a series of press releases. One month before the event, we received news that a contingency of architects will attend PDF2023. Shortly after, more confirmed participants from the Sabah, Northern and East Coast chapters as well as **Brunei Institution of Surveyors, Engineers and Architects (PUJA)**. Our local hospitality liaison team led by PAMSC Chairman, **Ar. Noraini Narroden** and **Ar. Ivy Jong** took care of these participants.

One week before the event, we visited the Mayor of Kuching South City Council, **Datuk Wee Hong Seng**, who agreed to be the Guest-of-Honour for the Pavilion launching. We wrote to invite the Deputy Premier of Sarawak, **Datuk Amar Prof. Dr. Sim Kiu Hian** to be the Guest-of-Honour for the Design Forum, which he agreed.

One day before the Design Forum (8:24pm) we received news the the Deputy Premier will come arrive 45 minutes earlier (at 8:30 a.m instead of 9:15 a.m.). We quickly rallied the event participants to arrive earlier so that the Deputy Premier will not be speaking to a half empty hall. Dutifully, our fellow architects skipped their breakfasts and arrived before our Guest-of-Honour, who happily launched our Design Forum. And as they say, the rest is history. (A detailed feature of the Design Forum will available in the coming FLASH).

THE REWARDS

This report aims to give a behind the scenes experience of organising PDF 2023, and it gives us an opportunity to record our thanks and gratitude to those of our readers who attended the events. It, more importantly allows us to record our thanks to our fellow architects who assisted us in our tasks. The committee members who quietly helped in securing funding, providing hospitality for our out-of-town visitors and presenting a 'face' to our Chapter. The most impressive and rewarding thing for me is how our young architects took to their tasks, they were professional and a joy to work with. They are **Chan Shie Wah, Sim Shau Jiunn, Lau Chee Kiong, Johann Harris Sulaiman, Lau Chun Leong and Freddie Lo**. If this is a gauge to go by, then the future of our Chapter is in good hands.

END

WHAT DO ARCHITECTS DO ALL DAY?

As I have been practicing for a while now, and have 'kaki-tangan' to shoulder some roles, I would very much prefer to be enjoying making more bread, learn the Al-Quran and more playtime with feline 'captives'.

However, having said that, still, Architecture is the highest 'art' that I know and the most mind-filling, soul grabbing and fulfilling (like a good Cornish Pasty).

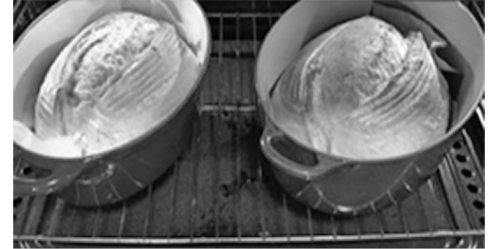
We thought we would invite our readers to do the same - describe their day in a series of images and short captions -and I nominate Ar. Abg Razali to be the next contributor. - Ar. Nurina Matnor



5.00 am - Pray Subuh



7.00 am - Gardening



8.00 am - Mucking about in the kitchen and cat space.



10.00 am - Posing



2.00 pm - more posing with consultants.



5.00 pm - contemplation moments in office nook.



7:00 pm - back to design zone.

9.00 pm - Thinking of culinary feats - past, present & future until ZZZ.

Directional Dialogue

GREEN BUILDING INDEX And the Future Prospects of Greening Sarawak's Built Environment

A COMPREHENSIVE DISCUSSION on Green Building Index on Sarawak's built environment.

In exploring Sarawak's strategic development, we delve into the pivotal role of the Green Building Index (GBI). From embracing local ecosystems to fostering innovation, GBI aims to chart a sustainable course in the Sarawak region. As we ponder "What's next for Sarawak?", let's collectively shape a greener horizon. Join the conversation; the future beckons.

Presided over by:



Ar. Abu Zarim bin Abu Bakar
PAM President
GBI Board Chairman

Saturday
25th November 2023
10am - 12noon

Venue:

PAM Sarawak Chapter
Level 3, Sublot 11, Block A1,
Saradise, Jalan Stutong
93350 Kuching, Sarawak,
Malaysia.

For more information, please
contact Ms. Aqilah at 013-440 7375 or
aqilah@greenbuildingindex.org



FOR REGISTRATION, SCAN HERE

Or register at the link below
<https://forms.gle/oomujyxbszLXfSCM9>

Admission is Free
GBI and LAM CPD Points Applied

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PAMNXT (PAM Graduate) Roadshow

SARAWAK EDITION

A TWO-DAY ROADSHOW

24 - 25 NOV 2023



Objectives:

- To understand the graduate interest and expectation from the industry and PAM itself.
- To discuss on collaboration of activities between the Graduate Committee of different chapters.

Program:

24 NOVEMBER 2023

- PAMNXT (PAM Graduate) Townhall with students from local universities
- 📍 Pusat Islam Abang Salahuddin (PITAS) UNIMAS

25 NOVEMBER 2023

- Townhall with Graduate Architects
- 📍 PAM SC, Kuching, Sarawak
- Visit to Sarawak Eco Warriors



PARTNERS

