PAM
Sarawak Chapter

PAMSC NEWSLETTER

INTERSECTION

PAMSC Golden ANNIVERSARY 50

PAMSC STUDY TOUR 2026

A TRAVELOGUE BY AR. NG CHEE WEE

HOI AN OLD TOWN, AND DA NANG CITY, VIETNAM

• • •

CELEBRATING SARAWAK'S NEW LAM PART III PASSERS

TERM 2025-2026 | FEB-MAR 2026

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PAMSC GOLDEN JUBILEE CELEBRATION

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

"

As PAM Sarawak Chapter approaches its Golden Jubilee in February 2026, we celebrate an important milestone, 50 years of professional dedication, collaboration, and service to the built environment in Sarawak.

From humble beginnings as informal gatherings of committed professionals, PAMSC has grown into a vibrant community of more than 450 members, comprising corporate members, fellows, graduates, and students. This growth reflects the strong culture of volunteerism and shared values that have guided the Chapter for five decades. It is a testament to the dedication of past leaders and members who have contributed their time, expertise, and vision to build a respected and purposeful organisation.

Over the years, PAMSC has developed close and constructive working relationships with the Sarawak Government and key agencies, positioning architects as trusted partners in nation-building. Through sustained engagement, the Chapter has contributed to policy dialogue, regulatory improvements, and the advancement of professional standards. Among these efforts is our long-standing participation in the review of the Sarawak Building Ordinance, including the development of Building Plan Checklists and technical consultations through joint committees.

These collaborations have helped strengthen regulatory frameworks, improve building safety, and modernise building legislation. In particular, close dialogue with the Fire and Rescue Department (BOMBA) has enhanced fire safety provisions, while the separation of legal and technical requirements within the ordinance enables building standards to evolve more effectively alongside professional practice.

Sarawak continues to demonstrate strong leadership in sustainability and innovation, becoming the first state in Malaysia to incorporate green initiatives within building legislation. Guided by the state's sustainability agenda and long-term development vision, architects are increasingly called upon to design holistically; integrating environmental responsibility, innovation, and community wellbeing within the built environment.

As we commemorate this anniversary year, PAMSC looks forward to initiatives such as the PAMSC Design Festival 2026, public lecture programmes, and continued outreach to universities and schools to nurture the next generation of architects.

On behalf of the Chapter, I extend my sincere appreciation to past leaders, members, partners, and supporters whose contributions have shaped PAMSC over the past five decades. Together, we look ahead with renewed purpose; committed to advancing the profession and contributing to a resilient and sustainable future for Sarawak.

PAM Sarawak Chapter, Happy 50th Anniversary!



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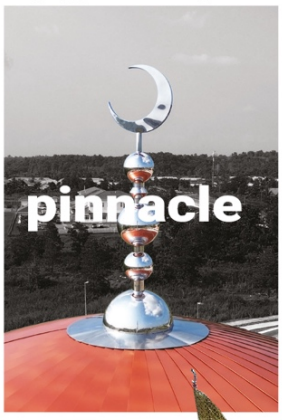

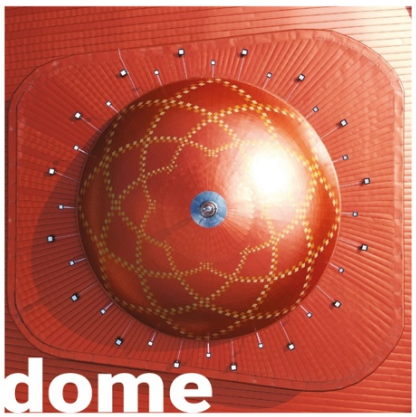





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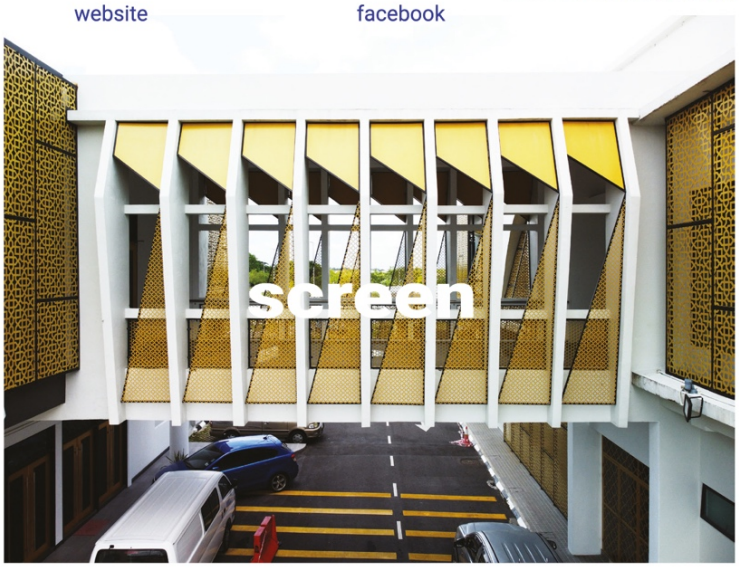







PAMSC GOLDEN JUBILEE GALA DINNER 2026

By Ar. Intan Sazali

The 50th Anniversary Golden Jubilee Gala Dinner of Pertubuhan Akitek Malaysia Sarawak Chapter (PAMSC) was held on 24 January 2026, commemorating five decades of architectural leadership and professional contribution in Sarawak. The evening brought together distinguished guests, architects, industry partners and friends of the chapter in a celebration of legacy, service and shared purpose.



The Guest of Honour was **Yang Berhormat Datuk Amar Prof. Dr. Sim Kui Hian**, Deputy Premier of Sarawak and Minister for Public Health, Housing and Local Government, representing the Premier of Sarawak, **Yang Amat Berhormat Datuk Patinggi Tan Sri (Dr) Abang Haji Abdul Rahman Zohari bin Tun Datuk Abang Haji Openg**. Also present were **Dato' Sri Ts. Nor Hisham Mohammad** the Director-General of Jabatan Bomba dan Penyelamat Malaysia, and **Adj. Prof. Ar. Adrianta Aziz** the President of Pertubuhan Akitek Malaysia, alongside past chairmen, council and committee members, architects, industry partners and members of the media.

















Established on **27th February 1976** following the extension of the Architects Act 1967 to Sabah and Sarawak, PAMSC was established to give architects in the state a collective voice and professional platform. From modest beginnings, when meetings were held in members' offices without a permanent base—the chapter steadily grew, eventually establishing its own spaces from the Ultimate Professional Centre to Queen's Court, and today at Saradise.

Over the years, PAMSC has played an important role in strengthening the profession and fostering collaboration across the built environment industry. Initiatives such as the Building Trade Show, first launched in 2003, and the PAMSC Design Forum have connected architects, industry partners and international voices while encouraging the exchange of ideas and innovation.







In his message delivered by the Deputy Premier, Premier Abang Jo congratulated PAMSC on its milestone anniversary, noting that the chapter "has served as the cornerstone of architectural professionalism in Sarawak, upholding the highest standards of practice and acting as a critical partner in the state's development." He also acknowledged PAMSC's role as a trusted partner to the Ministry in policy development and regulatory improvements, including the recently passed Sarawak Building (Amendment) Bill 2025, which updates the 1994 ordinance to align with modern safety standards, sustainability principles such as the Green Building Index, and evolving development needs through the establishment of the Sarawak Building Board.

In memoriam of the late **Ar. Philip Chang Foh Ping** (1952–2023), a token of appreciation was presented to his family during the evening in recognition of his contributions to Pertubuhan Akitek Malaysia Sarawak Chapter and the architectural profession in Sarawak.

The evening also recognised individuals whose dedication has shaped the chapter. The PAMSC Distinguished Leadership and Service Award honoured **Ar. Ng Chee Wee**, **Ar. Desmond Kuek**, and **Ar. Stephen Liew** for their longstanding contributions, mentorship, and commitment to advancing the profession within PAMSC.

As PAMSC celebrates its Golden Jubilee, the occasion stands as a reminder that the chapter's achievements are built on the collective efforts of its members, partners and supporters who continue to shape the future of Sarawak's built environment.




















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總理：打造世界級基設

免費高教培育建築師

（本报古晋25日讯）砂拉越总理拿督巴丁宜丹斯里阿邦佐哈里指出，砂拉越政府将于今年正式落实的“免费高等教育计划”，是培育新一代专才的核心战略。

他强调，这不仅是为了减轻学子负担，更是为了储备足够的建筑师等专业人才，以实现砂拉越成为东盟“明星经济体”的宏愿。

由于总理未克出席，其演词由副总理拿督阿玛沈桂贤在昨晚举行的马来西亚建筑师公会砂拉越分会成立50周年金禧晚宴上代读。

阿邦佐哈里在演词中形容，免费高教计划是一项针对砂拉越人力资本的战略性投资。

消除升學財務障礙

“通过消除砂拉越子民进入砂四所政府所属大学的财务障碍，我们正敞开高等教育的大门，让年轻人掌握知识，推动砂拉越迈向先进经济体。我们要打造世界级的基础设施，包括全新的机场与港口，而这一切若没有像建筑师这样的专业人才库作为支撑，是不可能实现的。”

总理对马来西亚建筑师公会砂拉越分会成立50周年表示由衷祝贺，并赞扬该会在过去半个世纪中，在推动建筑卓越、可持续发展及社区参与方面发挥了关键作用。

配合政府数碼轉型

他赞扬马来西亚建筑师公会砂拉越分会积极配合政府的数码化转型，包括落实电子提呈与审批系统（eSPA）及电子土地行政系统（eLA）。

他也提到去年11月25日通过的《2025年建筑（修正）法案》。该法案旨在实现建筑行业现代化并成立砂建筑委员会，而马来西亚建筑师公会砂拉越分会成员在法案的起草过程中提供了宝贵的专业见解。

他强调，砂拉越未来的大规模基础设施建设将高度重视“可持续性”，而建筑师在其中扮演著“导师”与“执行者”的双重角色。

他说，随著新一代建筑师通过免费高教计划成长起来，马来西亚建筑师公会砂拉越分会在指导与持续专业发展方面的角色将变得至关重要，所代表的“追求卓越”文化，将引导年轻人融入砂拉越的建设蓝图。



主宾代表拿督阿玛沈桂贤（右7）与马来西亚建筑师公会砂拉越分会领导层一同切50周年金禧蛋糕。



阿德里安达。左四为马来西亚建筑师协会主席（左三）赠送纪念品予沈桂贤；亚建筑师协会砂分会主席诺莱妮在众理事陪同下，马来西

總理：免費高教培訓人才

為建築師人手荒解套

（古晋25日讯）砂总理拿督巴丁宜阿邦佐哈里表示，砂政府将通过免费高等教育措施，协助解决本地专业人才，尤其是建筑师短缺问题。

他说，砂政府正大力投资，发展现代化及世界级基础设施，包括拟议中古晋新国际机场及深海港口，以配合将砂打造为东盟之星经济体的长期发展愿景。

“注重可持续元素的世界级基础设施建设，离不开相应数量与素质的专业人才，尤其是建筑师的参与与支撑。”

砂建筑师协会拥450会员

阿邦佐哈里昨晚在马来西亚建筑师协会砂分会50周年庆晚宴上致词时，如是说。由于他不克出席，其讲稿由砂副总理兼公共卫生、房屋及地方政府部长拿督阿玛沈桂贤代读。

他说，为解决本地建筑师短缺问题，砂政府推行免费高等教育措施，协助学生免除经济负担，进入4所砂政府拥有的高等教育学府深造。

“通过免费高等教育措施，砂政府有信心逐步解决砂专业人才不足问题，以支撑砂迈向与东盟其他先进经济体并驾齐驱的发展目标。”

他也说，新一代建筑师培养与成长，马来西亚建筑师协会砂分会在导师制度及持续专业发展方面的角色，将在塑造专业及卓越文化中发挥关键作用。

马来西亚建筑师协会砂分会成立于1976年2月27日，初期仅在会员办公室召开理事会议，随着多年发展，目前会所设于古晋犀利泰。该会已发展成为全国最活跃分会之一，拥有近450名会员。

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Premier: Sarawak's Free Tertiary Education Scheme to nurture next generation of architects

BY JUDE TOYAT ON JANUARY 25, 2026, SUNDAY AT 9:43 AM SARAWAK



Dr Sim (seventh right) joins other guests in cutting the cake to mark the 50th anniversary of the PAMSC.

KUCHING (Jan 25): A new generation of architects needed to realise Sarawak's vision of becoming a star economy in Asean can be nurtured through the transformative Free Tertiary Education Scheme (FTES), said Premier Datuk Patinggi Tan Sri Abang Johari Tun Openg.

He said the scheme, which will be implemented this year, is a strategic investment to build Sarawak's human capital and address the shortage of professionals required to support large-scale and sustainable infrastructure development.

"By removing the financial barrier for students to enter our four state-owned universities, we are opening our tertiary education to all Sarawakians to acquire knowledge to develop Sarawak into an advanced economy.

"We will be investing heavily in modern and world-class infrastructure, a new airport and seaport in Kuching in particular, that would be aligned with our vision of developing Sarawak into a star economy in Asean.

"The world-class infrastructure with emphasis on sustainable features cannot be built without building a corresponding pool of professionals, particularly architects like you," he said.

Abang Johari's speech was delivered by Deputy Premier Datuk Amar Dr Sim Kui Hian during the Pertubuhan Akitek Malaysia Sarawak Chapter (PAMSC) 50th Golden Anniversary Gala Dinner at a hotel here on Saturday night.

He expressed confidence that FTES would help address the shortage of professionals needed to support Sarawak's development agenda.

"With FTES, I am quite confident that we can address the lack of professionals in Sarawak to support our vision of turning Sarawak into a developed economy, in league with other advanced economies in the Asean region.

"FTES is an investment that Sarawak must make in its people and it is one that creates a powerful synergy with PAMSC's mission.

"As a new generation of architects is being developed, the Chapter's role in mentorship and continuous development becomes pivotal in the effort to integrate them into a culture of excellence that you all stand for," he added.

Congratulating PAMSC on its golden jubilee, Abang Johari said the chapter has played a significant role in Sarawak's development over the past five decades.

He noted that PAMSC, which is affiliated with Pertubuhan Arkitek Malaysia (PAM), has consistently promoted architectural excellence, sustainable development, professional education and community engagement through its programmes and Continuing Professional Development (CPD) initiatives.

Abang Johari also highlighted PAMSC's role in supporting the state government's digitisation efforts, including the implementation of electronic submission and approval (eSPA) and electronic land administration (eLA) systems.

"Engaging with PAMSC has enabled the state to tap into the 'heartbeat' of the building industry to formulate effective and realistic policies to achieve our shared vision for 2030," he said.

On regulatory reforms, he said the State Legislative Assembly passed the Building (Amendment) Bill 2025 on Nov 25 last year to modernise the construction sector, including the establishment of the Sarawak Building Board and stronger oversight of building professionals.

"I am pleased to acknowledge the contribution of PAMSC members who have contributed their invaluable professional insights in shaping a law that is both ambitious and practicable for the built industry in Sarawak," he said.

Also present at the event were Pertubuhan Akitek Malaysia (PAM) president Ar Adrianta Aziz and PAM Sarawak Chapter chairlady Ar Noraini Narodden.

Abang Johari | architects | Free Tertiary Education Scheme

Free tertiary education to help address shortage of architects in Sarawak, says Premier

Jan 24, 2026 @ 22:35



Dr Sim (third right) and other dignitaries place their palms on the panel as a symbolic gimmick to officiate Pertubuhan Arkitek Malaysia Sarawak Chapter's (PAMSC) 50th anniversary dinner held at Pullman Hotel, Kuching on Jan 24, 2026.

By Shikin Louis

KUCHING, Jan 24: Sarawak aims to address the shortage of professionals, particularly architects, through the State's Free Tertiary Education Scheme (FTES).

Premier Datuk Patinggi Tan Sri Abang Johari Tun Openg said the State government will be investing heavily in modern and world-class infrastructure, including a new airport and seaport in Kuching, in line with its vision of developing Sarawak into a star economy in Asean.

"The world-class infrastructure with emphasis on sustainable features cannot be built without a corresponding pool of professionals, particularly architects like you," he said in a speech text read by Deputy Premier Datuk Amar Dr Sim Kui Hian during the Pertubuhan Arkitek Malaysia Sarawak Chapter's (PAMSC) 50th anniversary dinner held at Pullman Hotel here tonight.

To resolve the shortage of local architects, he said the State government has undertaken the FTES, which removes financial barriers for students to enter the four State-owned universities.

"With FTES, I am quite confident that we can address the lack of professionals in Sarawak to support our vision of turning Sarawak into a developed economy in line with other advanced economies in the Asean region," he added.

As a new generation of architects is being developed, Abang Johari noted that PAMSC's role in mentorship and continuous professional development will be pivotal in integrating them into a culture of excellence.

Formed on Feb 27, 1976, PAMSC began from humble beginnings, holding committee meetings in members' offices, before establishing joint premises with other professional institutes at Ultimate Professional Centre, Jalan Bukit Mata, followed by offices at Queens Court and its current premises in Saradise, Kuching.

Today, PAMSC has grown into one of the most active chapters nationwide, representing nearly 450 corporate, fellow, graduate and student members within a national body of more than 5,000 architects.

Also present were PAM president Ar. Adrianta Aziz and PAMSC chairwoman Ar. Noraini Narodden. — DayakDaily

Utusan Sarawak
SUMBER MAKLUMAT ERA BAHARU

SEMASA

PAM Sarawak sumbang kepakaran bina persekitaran mampan, sokong visi PCDS 2030

Utusan Sarawak 2 months ago



BERUCAP... Datuk Amar Dr Sim Kui Hian membacakan teks ucapan Premier Sarawak, Datuk Patinggi Tan Sri Abang Johari Tun Openg, sempena Majlis Makan Malam Gala Ulang Tahun ke-50 Pertubuhan Akitek Malaysia Sarawak Chapter (PAMSC) di salah sebuah hotel, malam ini. Foto Shikin Mahmud

KUCHING: Kerajaan Sarawak menghargai sumbangan berterusan Pertubuhan Akitek Malaysia Sarawak Chapter (PAMSC) sebagai rakan strategik dalam pembangunan negeri, khususnya dalam memperkukuh persekitaran bina yang mampan, selamat dan beridentiti Sarawak.

Premier Sarawak, Datuk Patinggi Tan Sri Abang Johari Tun Openg, berkata PAMSC telah menjadi tunjang profesionalisme seni bina di Sarawak selama lima dekad dengan menjunjung standard amalan tertinggi serta menyumbang secara signifikan kepada agenda pembangunan negeri.

Menurutnya, PAMSC yang bernaung di bawah Pertubuhan Arkitek Malaysia telah memainkan peranan penting dalam memajukan kecemerlangan seni bina, mempromosikan pembangunan lestari, memperkukuh pendidikan profesional serta penglibatan komuniti.



DATUK Amar Dr Sim Kui Hian melakukan perasmian simbolik pada sambutan Ulang Tahun ke-50 Pertubuhan Akitek Malaysia Sarawak Chapter (PAMSC) pada Majlis Makan Malam Gala di salah sebuah hotel, malam ini. Foto Shikin Mahmud

"Melalui program tahunan, penganjuran acara bersasar dan inisiatif Pembangunan Profesional Berterusan (CPD), PAMSC membudayakan perkongsian ilmu dan pembinaan kapasiti dalam kalangan pengamal industri," katanya.

Beliau berkata demikian pada Majlis Makan Malam Gala Ulang Tahun Ke-50 PAMSC yang dibacakan oleh Timbalan Premier Sarawak, Datuk Amar Sim Kui Hian, di Pullman Hotel, malam ini.

Beliau turut menekankan peranan arkitek sebagai pemudah cara industri pembinaan yang mampu bekerjasama rapat dengan kerajaan negeri dalam merealisasikan visi Sarawak meliputi kelestarian, tenaga hijau, neutral karbon, pendigitalan serta kecerdasan buatan.

Dalam aspek pendigitalan, PAMSC katanya merupakan rakan aktif kerajaan negeri dalam menyokong pelaksanaan Sistem Pengambilan Anggota Perkhidmatan Awam Secara Dalam Talian (eSPA) dan Sistem Lantikan Secara Elektronik (eLA), selain memberikan pandangan profesional dan bebas dalam pelbagai sesi libat urus bersama agensi kerajaan dan badan berkanun.

"Penglibatan PAMSC membolehkan kerajaan negeri memahami denyut nadi industri pembinaan bagi merangka dasar yang realistik dan berkesan selaras dengan visi pembangunan Sarawak menjelang 2030," jelasnya.



DATUK Amar Dr Sim Kui Hian pada sambutan Ulang Tahun ke-50 Pertubuhan Akitek Malaysia Sarawak Chapter (PAMSC) pada Majlis Makan Malam Gala di salah sebuah hotel, malam ini. Foto Shikin Mahmud

Menyentuh pembangunan modal insan, beliau berkata pelaksanaan Skim Pendidikan Tinggi Percuma Sarawak (FTES) bermula tahun ini merupakan pelaburan strategik kerajaan negeri bagi melahirkan lebih ramai profesional tempatan termasuk arkitek, sejajar dengan aspirasi menjadikan Sarawak sebuah ekonomi maju di peringkat ASEAN.

Selain itu, beliau memaklumkan Dewan Undangan Negeri (DUN) Sarawak telah meluluskan Rang Undang-Undang Bangunan (Pindaan) 2025 pada 25 November lalu bagi memodenkan Ordinan Bangunan 1994, termasuk penubuhan Lembaga Bangunan Sarawak (SBB), pengukuhan aspek keselamatan, kelestarian dan pematuhan profesional.

"Saya merakamkan penghargaan kepada ahli PAMSC yang menyumbang pandangan profesional dalam menggubal undang-undang ini agar bersifat progresif dan praktikal untuk industri pembinaan di Sarawak," katanya.

Beliau turut menzahirkan keyakinan terhadap peranan PAMSC dalam fasa pelaksanaan undang-undang berkenaan demi memastikan persekitaran bina yang berkualiti untuk rakyat.

Majlis berkenaan turut dihadiri Timbalan Menteri Perancangan Bandar, Pentadbiran Tanah dan Alam Sekitar Sarawak, Datuk Len Talif Salleh, Ketua Pengarah Jabatan Bomba dan Penyelamat, Nor Hisham Mohammad, serta kepimpinan PAMSC.

Oleh Shikin Mahmud

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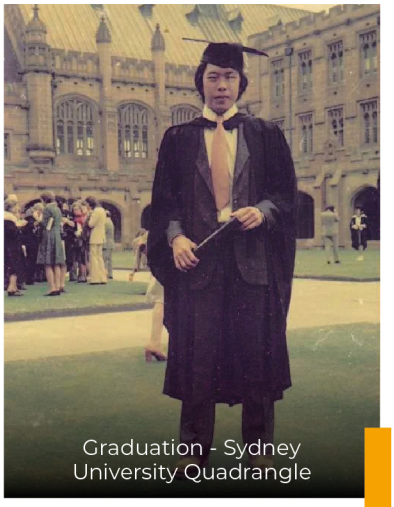
TRIBUTE TO PIONEER ARCHITECTS OF SARAWAK

Sarawak's architectural landscape did not emerge overnight. It was shaped by a generation of pioneers in the 1960s and 1970s who helped define the profession in the state. Through their projects, their leadership, and their mentorship, they laid the foundations for the architectural community that continues to grow today.

Among them are Ar. Philip Chang Foh Ping, Ar. Johnny Sim Kim Ong, and Ar. Andrew Tan Boo Seng - pioneers whose influence can still be felt across Sarawak's built environment and within the profession itself.

Ar. Philip Chang Foh Ping


The late Ar. Phillip Chang (1952-2023)


Graduation - Sydney University Quadrangle



PAM committee, 1982




Phillip Chang and his wife Tan Moi Moi

The late Ar. Philip Chang Foh Ping was remembered by friends and colleagues as a passionate advocate for architecture and a generous mentor to many. As Director of United Consultants Architects Sdn. Bhd., former councillor of Majlis Bandaraya Kuching Selatan, former Deputy Chairman of the Pending Branch of Sarawak United People's Party, and a past Chairman of Pertubuhan Arkitek Malaysia Sarawak Chapter, Philip served the profession with dedication throughout his career.

In 2019, he began a new chapter by establishing CATUS together with Ar. Stephen Liew, Ar. Law Kim Chui and Wong Kiong. Beyond practice, Philip was known for his deep curiosity and love of learning. His personal library of nearly 3,000 books reflected a mind that ranged widely—from architecture and local culture to politics, science and photography.

On 29 April 2023, after a short illness, Philip passed away at the age of 71. His passing was deeply felt within the profession. As Ar. Wee Hii Min described him, he was "an architect's architect" thoughtful, widely read, and always ready to share his knowledge.



Group photo with the Chief Minister


With PAMSC committee, 2021







Message from Mdm. Melissa Chang on behalf of Ar.Philip Chang family to PAMSC:

" Good afternoon.

First and foremost, we would like to extend our heartfelt appreciation to the Organising Committee of the PAMSC 50th Golden Anniversary Gala Dinner, led by Ar. Noraini Narodden, for the kind invitation and for successfully organising such a meaningful and memorable evening.

Our sincere thanks also for the special programme of remembrance and gratitude in honour of our late father, Ar. Philip Chang. This thoughtful gesture deeply touched our family. PAMSC and the architectural fraternity were very close to his heart, and he would have been immensely proud to witness PAMSC's continued growth and unity. It was always his greatest wish to see the organisation thrive and move forward with purpose and solidarity.

Thank you once again for the remembrance, the prayers, and the warm wishes extended to our family. We wish PAMSC continued success and every blessing in the years ahead. "



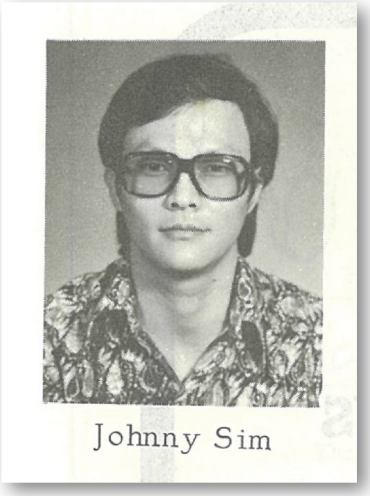
Ar. Johnny Sim Kim Ong

While some architects shape cities through buildings, Ar. Johnny Sim Kim Ong shaped the profession through people.

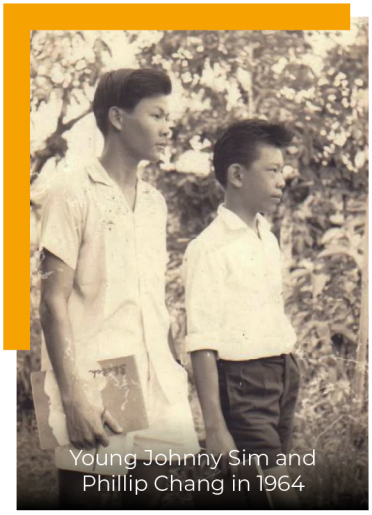
In the 1970s, Sarawakian graduates were scoring below the national average in the LAM Part III Professional Examination. Concerned by this, Johnny began conducting tutorials to help young architects strengthen their professional knowledge.

Using past examination questions, he mentored generations of architects throughout his career in public service and continued even after becoming the fifth Chairman of Pertubuhan Arkitek Malaysia Sarawak Chapter. Over time, the gap narrowed, and eventually closed.

Yet when asked about his own achievements, he would simply say that he had built “nothing.” But in truth, his greatest work was the architects he helped guide.



One of PAMSC Organising Committee - Inauguration Night 1967



Young Johnny Sim and Phillip Chang in 1964



Ar. Johnny Sim Kim Ong



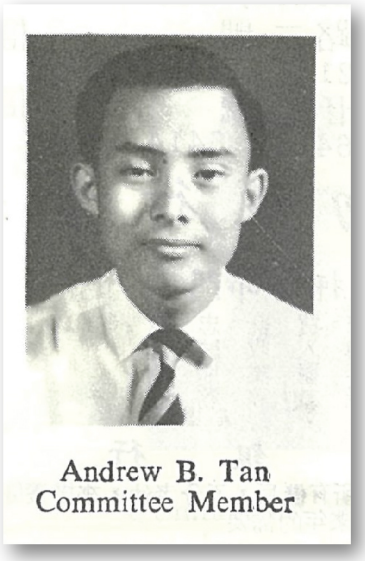
Mr. Johnny with some former students he taught throughout his career — generations of trained, confident, and competent architects.

Ar. Andrew Tan Boo Seng

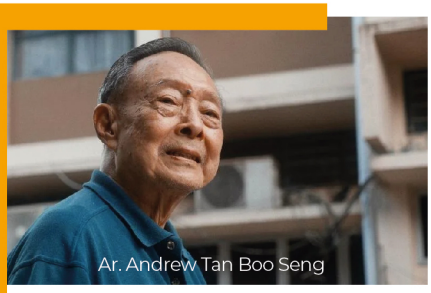
Another key figure in Sarawak's architectural story is Ar. Andrew Tan Boo Seng, who played an important role in shaping many early developments across the state.

A founder and director at Konsortium Malaysia, and later Arkitek KM Sdn Bhd, Andrew was involved in the design and implementation of significant projects including the Council Negeri buildings, the BDC Housing Schemes, and the shopping centres at Kenyalang Park in Kuching and Rajang Park in Sibu.

He was also part of the organising committee for the inauguration of Pertubuhan Arkitek Malaysia Sarawak Chapter in 1976 — a milestone that helped bring the architectural community in Sarawak together.



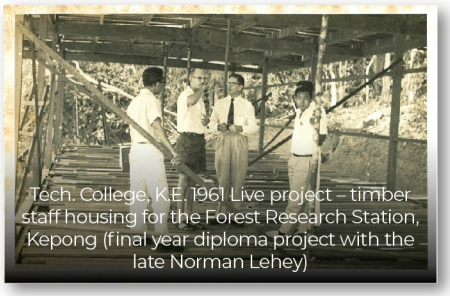
One of PAMSC Organising Committee - Inauguration Night 1967



Ar. Andrew Tan Boo Seng



Ar. Andrew was in Kuching last December attended PDF 2025



Tech. College, K.E. 1961 Live project – timber staff housing for the Forest Research Station, Kepong (final year diploma project with the late Norman Lehey)



Office Block at Kenyalang Park, 1971 — home to Konsortium Malaysia and Arkitek KM, where the practice remains based today.

Today, as PAMSC celebrates its journey, we remember that the profession stands on the shoulders of those who came before. Their dedication, leadership, and generosity continue to inspire the architects of today and tomorrow.

Content credits to :

PAMSC Archive
Borneo Architecture Journal | www.borneoarchitecturejournal.com
- Interview with Ar. Phillip Chang (1952-2023) done in 2011
- Interview with Ar. Johnny Sim 2026
- Interview with Ar. Andrew Tan, 2025

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PAMSC STUDY TOUR 2026

HOI AN, BA NA HILLS AND DA NANG

By Intan Sazali

The Pertubuhan Akitek Malaysia Sarawak Chapter (PAMSC) organised a study tour to Vietnam from 31 January to 4 February 2026, with 26 participants comprising members, spouses and associates. Over five days, we visited Hoi An, Ba Na Hills, and Da Nang, combining heritage observation with cultural exploration and the chance to experience the soul of these places firsthand.







In Hoi An, we explored the historic town centre, including the Japanese Covered Bridge, Chinese assembly halls, Quan Cong Temple, and Tan Ky Ancient House, along with the central market and surrounding streets. Walking through the town allowed us to observe how traditional shophouses and narrow streets continue to support daily commerce and tourism while maintaining the town's historic character. Some of us also managed to squeeze in a visit to Hoi An's famous tailors, returning with custom-made dresses and shirts. Desmond went one step further, having his shirt embroidered with his initials "DK".

We also attended the Hoi An Memories Show, a large-scale outdoor performance presenting the history of the town through music, lighting and staged scenes along the river.

Other activities included a cycling trip to Tra Que Vegetable Village, where we rode past herb gardens and small farms that supply produce to Hoi An's restaurants. A stop at Slow Cafe provided a quiet moment to take in the rural surroundings while enjoying Vietnamese coffee. Later in the day, we visited the Marble Mountains, known for their cave temples and stone craft heritage.



A dinner hosted at Namia River Retreat Restaurant allowed us to experience the architecture and setting of a riverfront resort while enjoying local cuisine and, for a moment, pretending we were professional food critics.

The programme concluded in Da Nang, where we observed the city's coastal character and relaxed pace. While not the primary historical centre of the region, Da Nang demonstrates how a beachside city can develop its own identity while maintaining a balanced urban lifestyle.

Overall, the study tour offered valuable exposure to heritage conservation, local craftsmanship, and the evolving urban landscape of central Vietnam.

Chee Wee also shared his travelogue from the trip, offering deeper reflections on the atmosphere of Hoi An and Da Nang. Reading it makes us want to return again, perhaps next time with even more time set aside for various types of Vietnamese coffee!














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PAMSC STUDY TOUR TO HOI AN OLD TOWN, AND DA NANG CITY, VIETNAM

A TRAVELOGUE BY AR. NG CHEE WEE



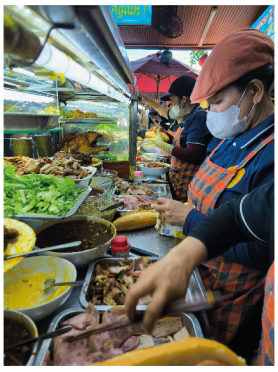


HOI AN OLD TOWN

Back in Hoi An after 10 years. Its just as charming, but even more swarmed with people. Still enjoyable though.









Back at Mdm Phuong for the Banh Mi. Still as popular as ever. The Banh Mi is still good but the ingredients seem to have shrunk from my last visit. At 40,000 VND, I really can't complain much. A must visit in Hoi An.

Morning Walk in Hoi An.







It is possible to enjoy Hoi An without the crowd, but you have to be an early bird. Run through the town between 6.00 to 8.00a.m. and most of the streets are free from people. It's the time when you can feel the ancient vibe.









Cho Hoi An - the Hoi An central market, is well worth a visit. Fresh fruits and vegetables are in the outer market, souvenirs and dried goods are on the inside. The food section is at the front. You can find the ubiquitous Cau Lau and White Rose there.



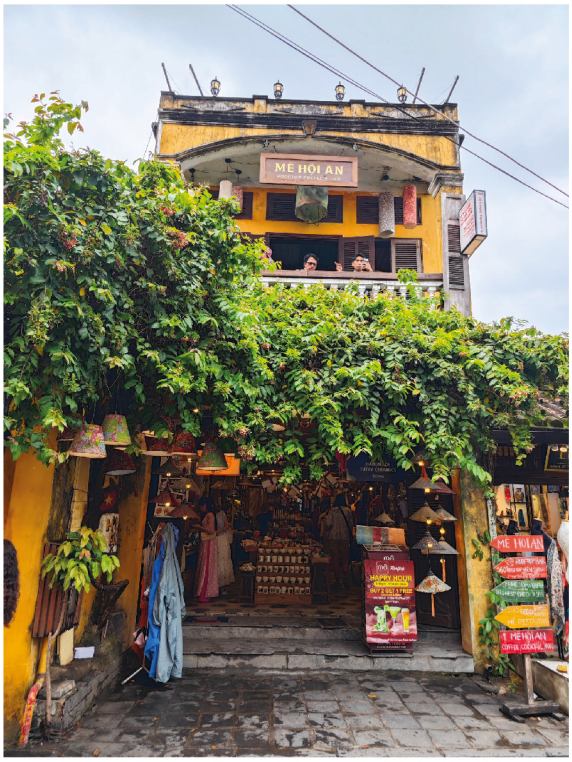
Happy to know that there is a Maison Marou outlet in Hoi An.Great selection of chocolates and pastries as always.











Chanced upon this very nice venue in Hoi An - Me Hoi An. On the ground floor is a lifestyle shop with trendy souvenirs and fashion. On the 1st floor is No Ne Kitchen - a restaurant and cafe. Go to the roof top - a beautiful roof terrace with great views of the surrounding area.









1st time trying Salt Coffee in Hoi An. It has a very rich and creamy texture, taste only a little bit salty. Actually the salt makes the drink more refreshing.





There are so many cafes in Hoi An that even after several trips you will not be able to visit all of them. One that is considered a hidden gem and that is quite difficult to find is Phin Coffee. It is located deep inside a narrow alley, and the Google directions actually lead you to a dead end.



If you are able to locate the cafe though, you will be rewarded with a green and calm oasis amidst the crowded chaos that Hoi An can be. The coffee here is good. I also tried the Apple Pie and White Rose, both managed to hit the spot.









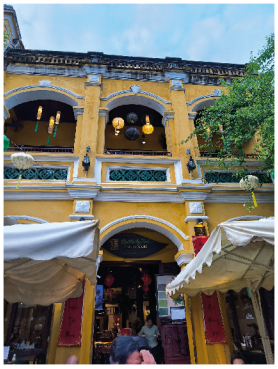






One of the most successful restaurateurs in Hoi An is none other than Ms Vy who owns several of the most popular and best restaurants in town. Vy's Market Restaurant on An Hoi Island just next to the Night Market is an upmarket food court which serves most of the iconic Hoi An dishes such as Cau Lau, Mi Quang and White Rose, plus other Vietnamese staples. The food here is always well executed and delicious.

For our 2nd night in Hoi An we went to Morning Glory Original - the flagship restaurant under the Ms Vy restaurant empire. The interior decor of the restaurant has not changed since my last visit quite a number of years back, however it still feels elegant. The food is the highlight - every dish we ordered was good, and the standout dishes were the Grilled Stuff Baby Squids, and the Smokey Eggplants with Minced Pork Sauce. I would go back to Hoi An just for that!



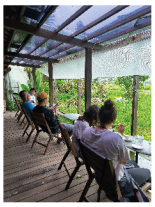

One of the great activities in Hoi An is to ride a bicycle and explore the surrounding areas. Just outside the Ancient Town are rice fields and vegetable gardens, and charming villages. The vegetable farms at Tra Que Village supply most of the fresh produce for the restaurants - and is also a very beautiful sight. There are many hidden cafes and restaurants around the vegetable farms which are well worth exploring. If you feel more energetic you can also cycle to An Bang Beach which is around 4.5km from the town centre.





Right beside the Tra Que Vegetable Village is this charming little cafe called Cafe Slow. They serve proper espresso and pastries. As the name suggests, you need to be patient and take time to enjoy the relaxed and unhurried vibe. Be prepared to wait around 1/2 hour for your coffee. With such wonderful surroundings and views - it is worth it.





Namia River Retreat is a luxurious resort that just opened in Hoi An in December 2024. I will let it speak for itself, so the following is a passage from their web site:

" On the quiet Cồn Ba Xã Islet in Hoi An, a magical journey unfolds at Namia River Retreat. Here, nestled amidst lush landscapes and tranquil waters, the retreat was born from a dream of blending genuine cultural exploration with the healing touch of Vietnamese herbology. Imagine stepping into a realm where private pool villas offer peace and luxury, dining experiences celebrate local flavors, and breathtaking pools overlook the shimmering Thu Bon River. As lanterns flicker in the ancient streets of Hoi An, Namia River Retreat invites you to embark on a journey of discovery and connection, weaving the beauty of tradition with the serenity of wellness."

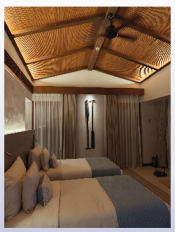
We had arranged a dinner for our group at The Merchant Restaurant - one of the on-site restaurants that is open to the public. The resort was very kind to give us a tour before the dinner. Needless to say we were thoroughly impressed!

















Our dinner at Namia River Retreat was in the beautiful Merchant Restaurant. It was a four-course affair featuring some of the signature dishes from their menu.

1st Course was Tra Que Tomatoes & Stracciatella. It was a salad of several different types of cherry tomatoes from Tra Que Village served with a tangy soft cheese. Each of the tomatoes had a distinctly different flavour profile, and the cheese provided a refreshing contrast - creating an enjoyable start to the meal.



2nd Course was Shellfish Bisque. The bisque had a rich and intense flavour, augmented by chunks of lightly cooked shellfish.



The Main Course was Namia River Paddy Duck served with a Peanut and Fermented Bean Curd Sauce and Brown Rice Noodles. The duck was served pink, and paired really well with the slightly funky taste of the sauce. The brown rice noodles had good texture but needed a bit more seasoning.



Dessert was a Salted Coffee Tiramisu. Having had really good salted coffee in Hoi An - I felt that this Tiramisu lacked a bit of punch. A stronger coffee and liquor hit would have made it perfect.



Though there were some misses in the menu, the dinner at Namia was on the whole a great experience due to the beautiful ambiance, the care put into the food served and overall great service from the staff. Would definitely visit again when next in Hoi An.

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DANANG CITY

Until recently, Da Nang hasn't been on the tourism radar. Most people use it as a spring board to other places like Hoi An and Hue. But Da Nang is actually a very cool destination on its own. Would definitely come back and explore more.







Morning run on Da Nang Beach.
It's really chill.





Da Nang Beach at night.
It's very happening.









The Pink church in Saigon is very famous, but did you know there is also a Pink Church in Da Nang? IMHO, the Da Nang Pink Church is more impressive with its tall and majestic bell tower and wide facade. The wide verandah around the side and back of the church is a tropical touch which blends surprisingly well with the Gothic style.

This church was built by the French and opened its doors in 1924. It still serves the local Catholic community to this day.



Our visit to Ba Na Hills was unfortunately met with heavy rain and fog, making it very difficult to take the iconic shots at the Golden Bridge and the French Village. In fact the French Village was so shrouded in the fog we could hardly see the buildings!

This huge theme park is run like a well-oiled machine. Despite the huge crowds that visit every day even in challenging weather, there were no signs of chaos or stress.











The highlight was the buffet lunch, which is served in several huge dining halls. The quality of the food for a place that caters to so many people was impressive.



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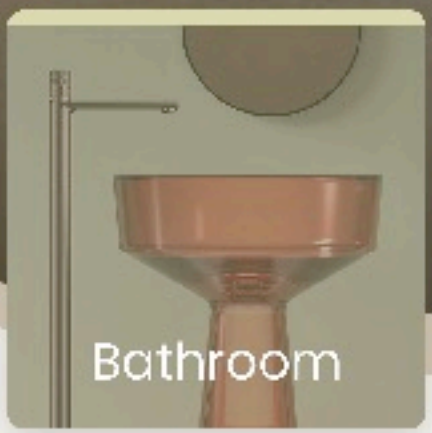





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CELEBRATING SARAWAK'S NEW LAM PART III PASSERS

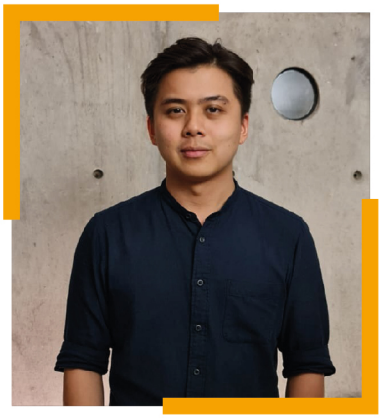
(SEPTEMBER 2025 PAPER)

Pertubuhan Akitek Malaysia Sarawak Chapter (PAMSC) is proud to celebrate a new group of Sarawak candidates who have successfully passed the Lembaga Arkitek Malaysia Part III.

This achievement reflects the dedication and hard work of these candidates, as well as the support of their mentors, colleagues, and workplaces along the way. PAMSC congratulates each of them and looks forward to seeing how they will continue shaping the built environment in Sarawak and beyond.

Sarawak Candidate Passers:	7) Hafizah Farah Binti Norman
1) David Nee Zhi Kang	8) Stanley Wong Khung You
2) Francis Poh Chung Hian	9) Nur Atiqah Husaini
3) Goh Siow Ping (Amber)	10) Wan Izz Naufal
4) Lim Jia Sing (Jess)	11) Matthew Kong Chen En
5) Ling Harn Wei	12) Lo Wei Meng
6) Christy Tan Ik Chia	13) Nur Amirra Suhaili

In the spirit of supporting the next generation of architects, several of the candidates have also generously shared their tips and words of encouragement for those preparing for the Part III examination. We hope their insights will inspire and guide future candidates on the same journey.



DAVID NEE ZHI KANG

" Most of my time was spent imagining what the authors had in mind before they drafted each provision. That helped me understand the situations the rules were meant to prevent or safeguard against.

I believe the exam was designed without an absolute answer, but as a mechanism to gauge whether our responses show awareness of the ground rules and boundaries before being entrusted with authority.

It's somewhat like a board game - before one can play well, the rules must first be understood at their core. "



FRANCIS POH CHUNG HIAN

“ Avoid the habit of “there is still time”; stay consistent, commit to a study group that keeps everyone accountable, and use past year questions as a test — if you cannot immediately see how to approach the answer, you are probably not ready yet. Part III exam is about understanding, not memorising. ”



GOH SIOW PING (AMBER)

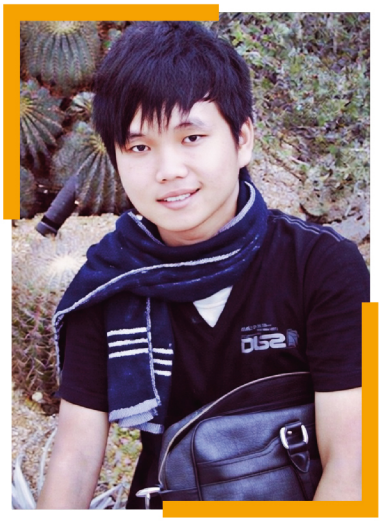
“ Read, reread, ask questions. Discuss and have conversations with your mentor and peers - I’m deeply grateful for mine, and for all who prayed for me.

Beyond the exam, remember Part 3 as a journey to develop your judgement and responsibility as an architect. Keep going - alongside others! ”



LIM JIA SING (JESS)

“ Readiness rarely comes first, commitment does. We often think that we must be fully prepared before taking action, yet the moment you choose to begin even with doubts and uncertainties, you are already making progress. It wasn’t easy, but the learning curve was worth the effort. ”



LING HARN WEI

“ As someone who takes more time to process and understand things, and who has always been naturally introverted, this journey has been one of the most challenging chapters of my life. There were failures along the way. Moments of doubt. Times when the process felt overwhelming.

But I’ve always believed that every setback is a step closer to success. Each unsuccessful attempt forced me to reflect deeply, analyse my weaknesses, and return better prepared. I chose to see failure not as rejection, but as redirection for growth.

To me, the only true defeat is giving up. As long as we continue learning and pushing forward, we are already moving closer to our goals.

Grateful for the journey. Grateful for the growth. ”



HAFIZAH FARAH BINTI NORMAN

“ One thing I held on to throughout Part 3 journey was to always try.

No matter how long it took or how different my timeline looked from others. I’ll just keep on trying. Alhamdulillah, that mindset kept me going.

It was a truly humbling experience, and I’m forever grateful for the help, support, and prayers from my family, friends, study mates, mentors, and colleagues. ”



STANLEY WONG KHUNG YOU

“ Treat the exam like SPM, where retake is not an option. It is not about gambling on one attempt. It is about respecting the profession enough to give it everything. If you truly want this, commit to it.

When your determination is clear, your focus becomes sharper. And when there is no second chance, progress becomes the only direction. You will get there. ”



NUR ATIQAH HUSAINI

“ To those taking the Part III exam, I know it can get difficult at times, I hope you guys stay focus, keep at it and have faith in your hardwork. My advice is to have a study group. Be open to outside references as well, like other study groups. Different ideas, different experiences really help. I also want to thank everyone for being positive and endlessly supportive throughout this journey. ”



LO WEI MENG

“ It’s okay to feel overwhelmed. What matters most is that you continue. Take it one book, one page, one clause at a time. Try to understand. Believe in the work you’ve done, stay steady, and trust that persistence will carry you through. ”

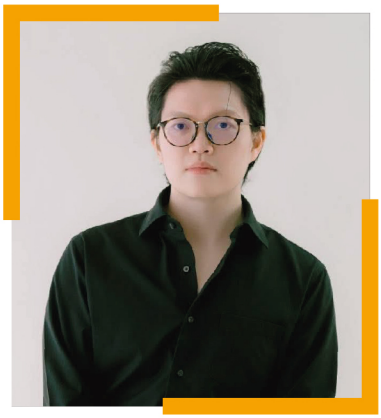


WAN IZZ NAUFAL BIN WAN ISMAIL

" Praise to God for all that He has given me.

Set a goal, find like-minded people, and work together to achieve it. Sacrifice where needed, gain experience, knowledge, and it will increase your confidence in facing any challenge.

I am truly blessed to meet my peers, and forever grateful for their place in my journey thus far. "



MATTHEW KONG

" The exam preparation for Part III was a humbling yet rewarding milestone.

To future candidates: there will be moments of doubt, but trust the process and keep going while supporting each other.

Deeply grateful to my mentor for the guidance and encouragement throughout, and to my study group mates for the support, camaraderie, dedication and shared journey. It truly made a difference. "



NUR AMIRRA SUHAILI

" To those taking the Part III exam, keep the mindset of an architect from the very beginning. Believe that you didn't come this far by accident. Years of studio life, endless deadlines, and real project experience have built the foundation you stand on today.

It will not be easy but trust the process. Your efforts will be worth it. Enjoy the learning, stay focused, read the scenario carefully, and answer accurately.

All the best, future Ar.s! "



CHRISTY TAN

" I am deeply grateful to my mentors, colleagues, peers, and study group mates, whose guidance, advice and encouragement made this milestone possible.

To future candidates, approach this journey not merely as an examination to pass, but as an opportunity to deepen your understanding of professional practice, ethics, and the responsibilities architects carry. Stay curious, remain humble in learning, and persist through the challenges. "

MALAYSIA MADANI
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The National Energy Awards (NEA) serve as a premier platform for recognising and rewarding excellence in sustainable energy initiatives across Malaysia. Organised by the Ministry of Energy Transition and Water Transformation (PETRA), NEA highlights outstanding achievements in energy efficiency and renewable energy solutions.

ABOUT US

Established in 2018, the NEA is Malaysia's premier accolade recognizing organizations at the forefront of driving the nation's sustainable energy sector. It acknowledges and rewards industry players who have demonstrated leadership in implementing sustainable energy practices.

NEA HIGHLIGHTS 2018-2024

OVER 1,200 SUBMISSIONS FROM VARIOUS SECTORS

203 WINNERS

105 MALAYSIAN WINNERS AT ASEAN ENEGY AWARDS

These accomplishments underscore Malaysia's leadership in sustainable energy across the ASEAN region, reinforcing the nation's commitment to shaping a sustainable energy future both domestically and regionally.

The main objectives of NEA are:

- To identify Malaysia's organizations with the best sustainable energy practices to represent the country at the Asean Energy Awards (AEA).
- To encourage the adoption of sustainable practices across all industries and sectors to drive Malaysia closer to the aspiration of net-zero GHG emissions by 2050.

CATEGORY 1

ENERGY MANAGEMENT

Building/Industries (Small/Medium & Large)

CATEGORY 2

ENERGY-EFFICIENT BUILDING

Green Building / EE Designed Building / Retrofitted Building / Tropical Building / Green Residential / Zero Energy Building

CATEGORY 3

RENEWABLE ENERGY

On-Grid / Off-Grid / SelCo Cogeneration (CHP) / Biofuels / Green Hydrogen / Waste to Energy / Renewable Energy Enabler Technology

SPECIAL AWARDS

- Energy Performance Contracting (EPC)
- Institutions of Higher Learning
- Sustainable Energy Financing (SEF)

Participation is open to all Malaysians organizations, individuals (Residential / Private owner`s building) and higher learning institutions that demonstrates the best sustainable energy practices

ORGANIZED BY:

MINISTRY OF ENERGY TRANSITION AND WATER TRANSFORMATION

SUPPORTED BY:

MGTC
Suruhanjaya Tenaga Energy Commission
seda MALAYSIA

PAMSC PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE WORKSHOP 2026

GEB WORKSHOP SERIES 1.1-1.5

Reported by Lau Chee Kiong

The PAMSC Professional Practice Workshop 2026 was organised with the objective of enhancing participants' understanding of current professional standards, regulatory requirements, and practical aspects of architectural practice. The workshop provided relevant and up-to-date insights into professional practice, particularly tailored for graduates preparing for the PAM Part III Examination.

The workshop series are conducted over the weekends from January to March 2026 at PAMSC, covered the following topics:





Workshop Series 1.1
DEVELOPMENT PROCESS
(24 & 25 January 2026)

Conducted by:
Ar. Muhd. Hazwan Mohd. Yunos
and Ar. Hafifi Kahar

This session provided a comprehensive overview of the six (6) key stages in the development process, namely:

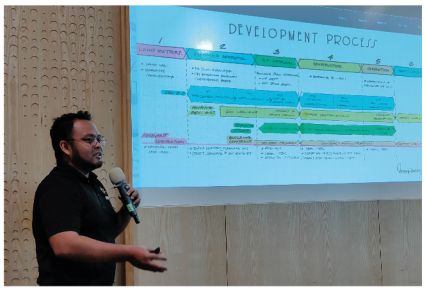
Land Matters
Planning Permission
Building Plan Approval
Construction Stage
Completion
Post-Completion

The speakers elaborated on the relevant acts and legislations applicable at each stage of the development cycle, emphasising the architect's role in ensuring compliance with statutory requirements and coordination with various authorities.

The session also introduced OSC 3.0 (One Stop Centre 3.0) as a mechanism for managing and streamlining the development approval process, particularly as implemented in West Malaysia. Participants were guided on the procedures involved and gained a clearer understanding of how the system operates in practice.

Overall, the workshop enhanced participants' understanding of the end-to-end development process and strengthened their awareness of statutory compliance and procedural coordination in architectural practice.










Workshop Series 1.2
PROFESSIONALISM & ARCHITECTURAL PRACTICE
(31 January & 1 February 2026)

Conducted by:
Ar. See Kim Piow
(Member of the LAM Part III Professional Examination Panel)

This session focused on understanding professionalism in architectural practice in Malaysia within the established legal and regulatory framework. The speaker emphasised the fundamental responsibilities and ethical obligations of an architect in upholding professional standards.

An architect is duty-bound to:

Safeguard public health, safety, and welfare
Act as an impartial advisor between the client and the builder
Maintain confidentiality and avoid conflicts of interest
Uphold the dignity and honour of the profession
Continuously advance their knowledge and professional skills



The session also addressed current professional standards, challenges faced by practitioners, and future directions of the architectural profession in Malaysia.

In addition, Ar. See Kim Piow provided valuable insights into the overall structure and assessment methodology of the LAM Part III Professional Examination, enabling candidates to better understand how the examination is conducted. Practical advice on the Dos and Don'ts for the LAM Part III Professional Examination was also shared to guide candidates in their preparation.

Overall, the workshop strengthened participants' awareness of professional responsibilities and better prepared them for both professional practice and the Part III examination.









Workshop Series 1.3
HOUSING & STRATA DEVELOPMENT
(7 & 8 February 2026)

Conducted by:
Ar. Fatmah Adhilah binti Mustapha Kamal and Ar. Nursuhaila binti Abdullah

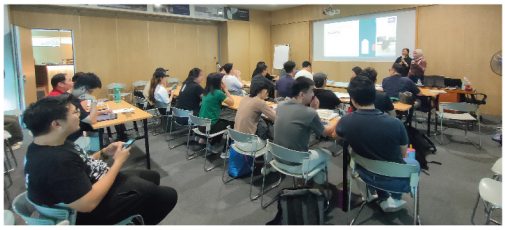
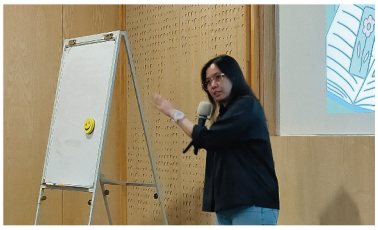
This session provided an in-depth understanding of housing and strata development within the Malaysian regulatory framework. The speakers elaborated on the roles and relationships between the Architect, Contractor, Employer/Client/Developer, and the Purchaser, highlighting the architect's responsibilities in safeguarding compliance and contractual obligations.

The workshop covered the overall development process, from planning permission to vacant possession, for both strata and non-strata housing developments. Particular emphasis was placed on statutory requirements and procedural coordination throughout the project lifecycle.

Participants were also guided through the respective timelines under the Building Contract and the Sale and Purchase Agreement (SPA), enabling them to clearly understand the contractual obligations and milestones involved.

In addition, the construction sequence was explained in relation to the certification stages of completion under the Housing Development Act, providing practical insights into the architect's role in certification and compliance.

Overall, the session enhanced participants' understanding of housing development procedures, contractual timelines, and statutory responsibilities in strata and non-strata projects.







Workshop Series 1.4
PAM CONTRACT
(7 & 8 March 2026)

Conducted by:
Ir. Harbans Singh

This workshop provided a comprehensive overview of construction/building contracts and the key principles involved in contract administration.



The topics covered in the workshop included:

1. **Construction/Building Contracts: Introduction**
   Overview of construction contracts, contractual relationships, and the key parties involved.

2. **Commencement of Contract at Site**
   Procedures and requirements for the commencement of works, including possession of site and initial contractual obligations.

3. **Payments / Commercial Matters**
   Interim certificates, valuation of work done, and financial administration under the contract.

4. **Variations / Changes**
   Items constituting variations, limitation of variations, validity of variation, procedures for instructing and managing variations during the construction stage.

5. **Delay, Extension of Time and Loss & Expense**
   Causes of delay, procedures for granting extension of time, and claims for loss and expense.

6. **Non-Completion and Damages**
   Liquidated and ascertained damages (LAD) and the consequences of failure to complete works within the stipulated contract period.

7. **Completion and Handing Over**
Practical completion, issuance of relevant certificates, and procedures for handing over the project to the employer.

8. **Defects**
Management of defects during the Defects Liability Period and procedures for rectification.

9. **Post-Completion and Final Account**
Preparation and agreement of the final account upon completion of the project.

10. **Determination and Dispute Resolution**
Contract determination procedures and available dispute resolution mechanisms.

Overall, the workshop enhanced participants' understanding of contract administration and provided practical insights into handling contractual issues that commonly arise during construction projects









Workshop Series 1.5
FIRE SAFETY DESIGN
(14 & 15 March 2026)

Conducted by:
Ar. Chong Lee Siong

This workshop focused on the principles and regulatory requirements of fire safety design in building projects. The session highlighted the architect's responsibility in ensuring that building design complies with fire safety regulations while safeguarding the safety of building occupants.

The speaker explained the fundamental concepts of fire safety planning in building design, including evacuation, passive containment, active intervention, and access for fire-fighting and rescue. Emphasis was placed on the importance of integrating fire safety considerations at the early design stage to ensure compliance with relevant regulations.

The workshop also covered the Uniform Building By-Laws (UBBL) requirements related to fire safety design, including provisions for escape routes, travel distances, fire staircases, compartmentation, and fire-fighting access. In addition, the session included discussions on the latest amendments to the UBBL, highlighting updates and changes that may affect building design and fire safety compliance.

Overall, the session enhanced participants' understanding of fire safety principles, regulatory compliance, and the architect's role in ensuring safe and code-compliant building design.



Graduates who were involved in organizing the workshop are Lau Chee Kiong, Tay Tze Yong, Lam Choi Suan, Chiawen Lim and Louis Ting. Thanks to the team!

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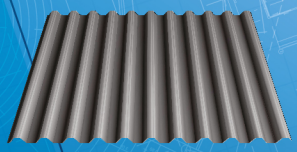

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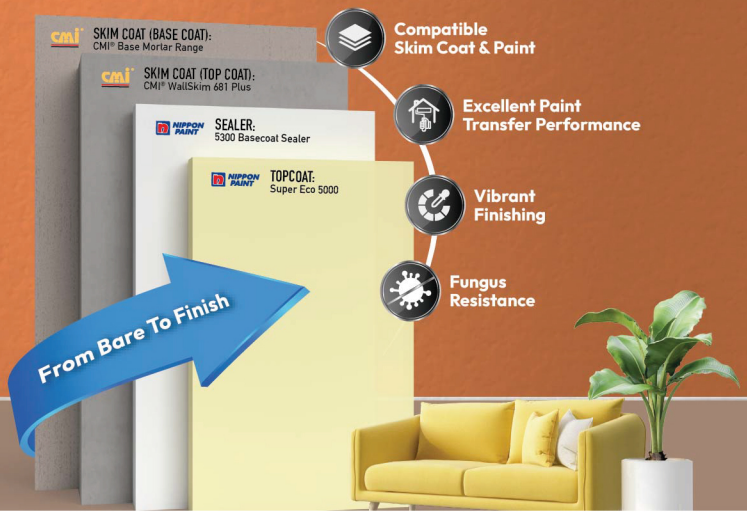

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