

BE. INFORM

Issue 01
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2021

FACULTY OF BUILT ENVIRONMENT (FBE) NEWSLETTER



FBE Spotlight

**Featuring the history, the current
news and the future planning of FBE**

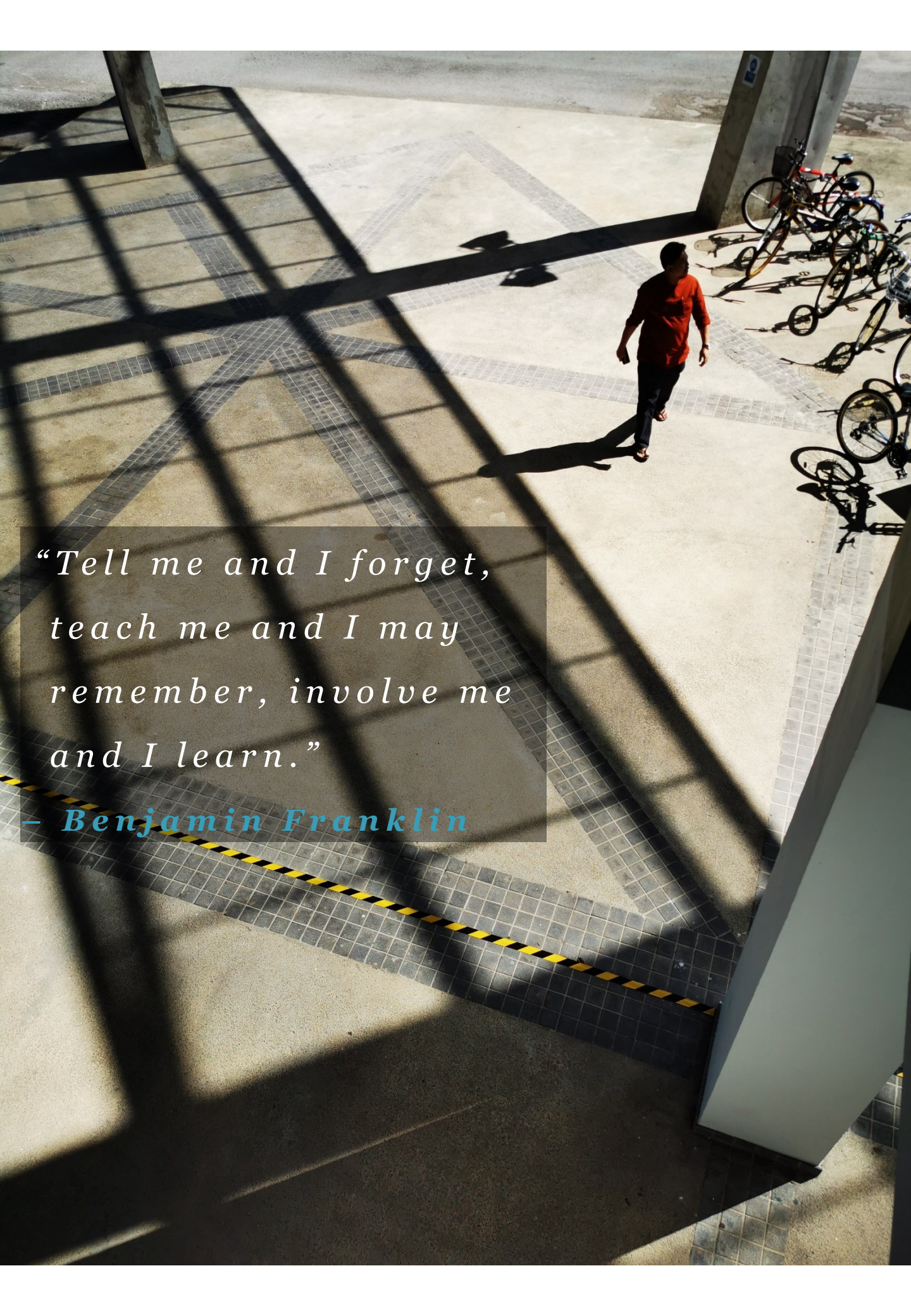


20 page feature the
Department of
Architecture and
Department of Quantity
Surveying bulletin



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*“Tell me and I forget,
teach me and I may
remember, involve me
and I learn.”*

— Benjamin Franklin



The beginning of a new chapter

This is where it all began

Written by Abdul Wafi Razali

“

The establishment of the UNIMAS 10th faculty means that local youths can pursue their interest in Built Environment in Borneo instead of going elsewhere.” Vice Chancellor UNIMAS Prof Dr Mohamad Kadim Suaidi

UNIMAS officially launched its newest faculty, the Faculty of Built Environment (Fakulti Alam Bina), on 21 September 2018. “It is hoped that through the establishment of the FBE, we could provide guidance for sustainable development of the communities in a way that conserves Sarawak’s phenomenal biodiverse environment,” Vice Chancellor Prof Datuk Dr Mohamad Kadim Suaidi Vice remarked. “As UNIMAS has reached its 25th year of excellence in serving the nation, especially in the State of Sarawak, it is indeed our commitment to continuously develop our university further with the establishment of FBE,” he added.

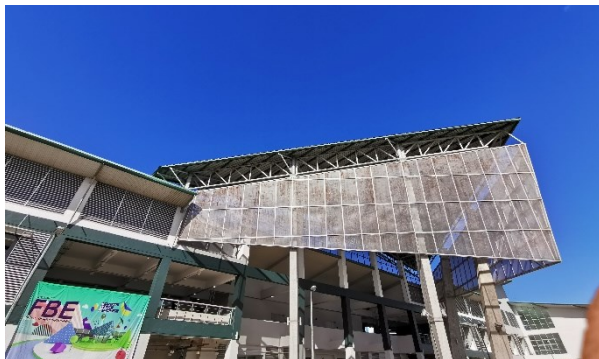
Both programmes, namely the Bachelor of Science (Honours) Architecture and Bachelor of Quantity Surveying (Honours), were initially administered by the Faculty of Engineering before the establishment of the Faculty of Built Environment (FBE).

The FBE administration and lecturers’ offices were temporarily stationed at the Central UNIMAS Building for Educators (The CUBE) before moving to the new FBE building located at East Campus. Previously known as the External Lab, the building was extensively renovated to suit the new faculty.

The launching of the new FBE building was organized by the faculty and officiated by the Chairman of the Board of Directors UNIMAS, YBhg Tan Sri Datuk Seri Panglima Sulong Matjeraie at 11:11AM on 11 November 2019. The launching ceremony also was attended by the Vice Chancellor of UNIMAS YBhg Prof Datuk Dr Kadim Suaidi, the council of deans and invited guests from the building industry.



The 12,783 square meter educational facility provides offices and supporting spaces for three (3) architecture studios, four (4) quantity surveying studios, administration offices, eighteen (18) lecturer rooms, four (4) seminar rooms, two (2) computer laboratories, a timber workshop, gallery, resource room and building science technology laboratory arranged over two (2) levels, featuring interior courtyards.



Undergraduate Programmes

Bachelor of Science (Honours) Architecture

The Bachelor of Science (Honours) Architecture (Part 1) is a three (3) year professional degree programme that has been awarded Provisional Accreditation (PA) from the Lembaga Arkitek Malaysia (LAM). The programme received their first cohort enrolment in September 2017 with a total number of 19 students from diverse academic backgrounds. Eight (8) students from the first cohort of the programme successfully graduated from their challenging journey as architecture students in October 2020. The programme is expecting to be awarded with the Full Accreditation certification in 2021.

Bachelor of Quantity Surveying (Honours)

The Bachelor of Quantity Surveying (Honours) offered by FBE is a four (4)-year professional degree programme recognized by the Board of Quantity Surveyors Malaysia (BQSM). The programme has been awarded with Provisional Accreditation (PA) by the Quantity Surveying Accreditation Council (QSAC) prior to the first cohort intake in the 2018/2019 academic session. Full Accreditation is expected to be awarded before the 16 students from the first cohort graduate in 2022.



People of FBE, Then & Now BE: Together We Grow BE: Apart we Connect

Both undergraduate programmes are headed by a Head of Department and assisted by a Programme Coordinator to manage and lead the department to achieve desired outcomes in line with the faculty strategic plan and way forward. As academic development is essential, both heads of programme will ensure the programmes offered remain relevant to suit industry needs.

Meet The People

Although still a young faculty, since 2017 the Faculty has grown bigger in human resources. As of now, there are 20 academicians & researchers, with 10 supporting staff to strengthen the Faculty's core business and services. Without these people, the Faculty could not have achieved what can be seen today.

FBE is currently lead by Prof Ar Nurakmal Abdullah Goh, the Dean of the faculty, assisted by four (4) Deputy Deans and a Head of Strategic Planning. Together, they administer the development of the faculty which includes teaching programmes as well as administrative and management responsibilities. The faculty is supported by an administration team, who are accountable for managing the administration and management sides of things. A warm culture of collaboration exists between the academicians and administration staff that allows it strive for the fulfilment of the faculty's mission, vision and purpose.

Academician
11 (Archi)
10 (QS)

Administration
10



Faculty Of Built Environment :

Research Areas of Expertise

Written by Dr Siti Syariazulfa Kamaruddin

The faculty offers a comprehensive range of degree programmes that is distinctive within Malaysia. Our programmes bring theory to practice through rigorous curricula led by experts in their fields, providing opportunities for students to excel academically and professionally. Together, the broad range of programmes provides unique research; teaching and learning opportunities tailored to undergraduates in an environment which enables intellectual risk, choice and critical rigour to flourish.

Research activities are considered a crucial element in the university besides teaching and learning. The university provides conducive research environment to staff and students in terms of infrastructure, funding, management support and promotes high quality basic and applied research.

The FBE spirit is to holistically develop a diverse student body who can become confident, innovative and knowledgeable professionals.

FBE academicians have research and consultancy expertise in a range of areas, such as Economics & Contracts, Architectural Studies, Construction & Project Management, Construction Technology & Maintenance, Heritage and Building Conservation, Building & Environmental Science (including Acoustics), Town & Regional Planning, Interior Architecture, Construction Procurement & Delivery Systems, Building Information Technology, Digital Media in Architecture, Landscape Architecture & Management, Sustainability in the Built Environment, Procurement & Green Building, and Waste Management.



UNIMAS VISION

A leading global university for a sustainable future

UNIMAS MISSION

To enhance the social and economic impacts on the global community through the pursuit of excellence in teaching, research, and strategic engagement

Niche - Areas :

Conservation of
Biodiversity



Biodiversity and
Environmental Conservation



Information Communication
and Creative Technology



Sustainable Community
Transformation

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*We offer the best Pre-
University,
Undergraduate,
Postgraduate & Lifelong
Learning Programmes in
Borneo.*

Department of Architecture Planning for 2021

Written by Dr Atta Idrawani Zaini

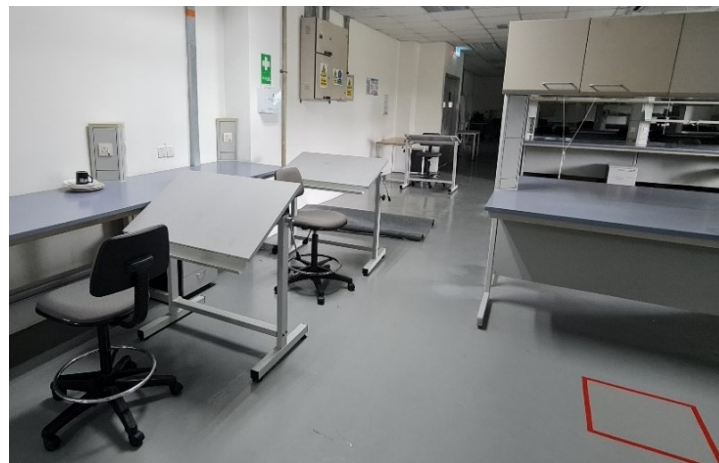
We kickstarted 2021 with mixed feelings. Our struggle with the global pandemic has yet to see the light of day. In hindsight, online architectural teaching and learning is possible, but this is not without its caveats. We stand by our position that architectural studio learning is always best done via face-to-face communications, as in physical studios and interpersonal interactions. We are committed to make sure this happens soon, so the quality of our students is kept at its best. For 2021, we are doing just that.

Our 2021 planning is adjusted around the challenges we are still facing and at the same time maintaining our focus in the pursuit of getting accredited by Lembaga Arkitek Malaysia. At the time of writing of this article, the Department is already halfway in bringing our students back to the campus. Each of them is now bravely going through the compulsory 14-days quarantine and surveillance before we can finally get back to the face-to-face learning. If everything goes well, a physical studio experience will start as soon as week 3.

Several strategic planning workshops were conducted to make this year a productive one. We made sure the Department's plans are aligned with the Faculty and UNIMAS's strategic interests. The highlights of our 2021 plan are as follows:

1. Academic –Ready to Face 'Face-to-Face'

Reverting to face-to-face teaching and learning is expected from 2021 onwards. Strict compliance to the SOP has been well strategized. Our staff and students are ready to make learning fun again.

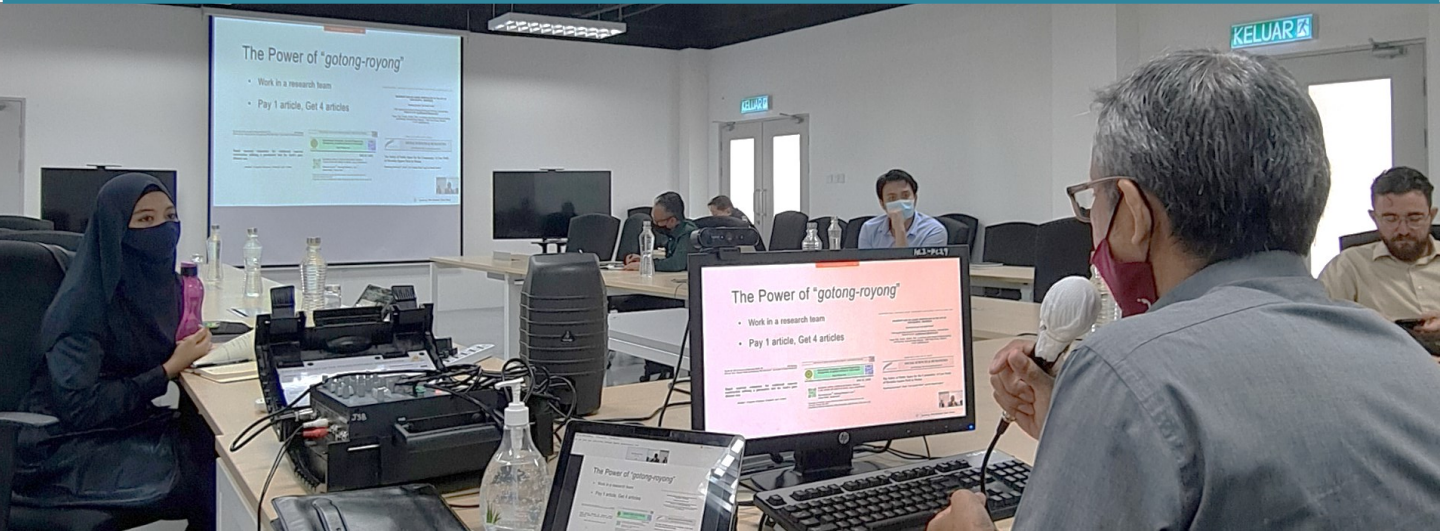


2. Publications – Books, Journals and Papers

Our academic staff are prepared to their utmost for producing quality publications. A manuscript publication workshop was held on 20 January 2021 to train our staff to be more equipped with necessary skills. The earliest publication we can expect from this will be in the form of one book on Built Environment issues and a compilation of sketches of UNIMAS in a coffee table book format. Our on-going effort in keeping on producing academic papers is still on track. We are targeting to publish 13 indexed papers this year and we still have a long way to go. We will also be publishing our first student portfolio compilation soon. As of now, a committee will be set up to be in charge of the work.

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This is not without its caveats, as we stand by our position that architectural studio learning is always best done via face-to-face communications, as in physical studios and interpersonal interactions.



3. Collaborations – MoU, MoA and More

Several potential partnerships in various areas have been laid out. As of now, we have fostered partnerships with Universitas Gunadharma and very soon with Universitas Brawijaya through an MoU. Virtual MoU signing ceremonies will be conducted for the memorandums. Next in the pipeline (by the second quarter of 2021), we are to connect with Pertubuhan Akitek Malaysia Sarawak Chapter (PAMSC), Sarawak Heritage Society and several other relevant parties among the industry players, professional bodies, NGOs and communities.

Possible accomplishments to arise from these partnerships would be in the form of activities, such as a cross-crit studio with our foreign counterparts, community work and a lecture series from time to time. As of now, we will take advantage of the pandemic, as most people are already used to having meetings and lectures online, and therefore our planned activities for 2021 will be mostly virtual. This will be tremendously helpful for our international friends. We are most excited to learn what can we benefit from these partnerships.



4. Virtual Accreditation – Exploring Possibilities

Getting our Architecture programme accredited has always been our priority since the beginning. As the new normal from the pandemic has taken over pretty much every aspect of our lives, all accreditation visits are to be held online. Currently we are still in the process of collecting the student works in digital form. Once ready, we expect the accreditation to be held this very year. This has never been done before and we hope that we can set the best standard for such virtual accreditations.

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5. UNIMAS Architecture – More than Just a Website

Something we inherited from last semester's portfolio exhibition is the domain www.unimasarchitecture.com. This domain will be pivoted into becoming a general website representing the Architecture Programme. Currently, it is hosting an exhibition of last and this semester's works (QUARANTEAM) which was developed by Pn. Dona Rose assisted by our 19 student volunteers. Soon this year, it will be used mainly for the virtual accreditation and in the future, much more content is to be hosted there. This is to be linked to the Faculty's main website, as our strategic way to increase the visibility for the Department and the Faculty. We have a variety of quality digital content planned out so far and some are already in the works. That leads us to the next item.

6. AD+ - 'Plus' Means Extra

Our own Architecture + Design Talk (AD+) has entered into its 10th issue and is getting more interesting. Our next plan is to expand the branding and contents of AD+, including the possibility of producing a series of podcasts in Youtube. Student volunteers to develop and carry AD+ forward will make it more purposeful.



SUMMARY

We foresee that 2021 will be a significant year for the Department of Architecture. But it is rather impossible to highlight all our planning for this year in only 2 to 3 pages. What is important to understand from this is despite the pandemic, we are resilient and committed to improve what we currently have. Of course, all these plans would not be possible without the active involvement of the staff and our beloved students. We carry this together and we shall enjoy the results together as well. We are excited to see what is ahead of us, so let's BE Together to achieve it.

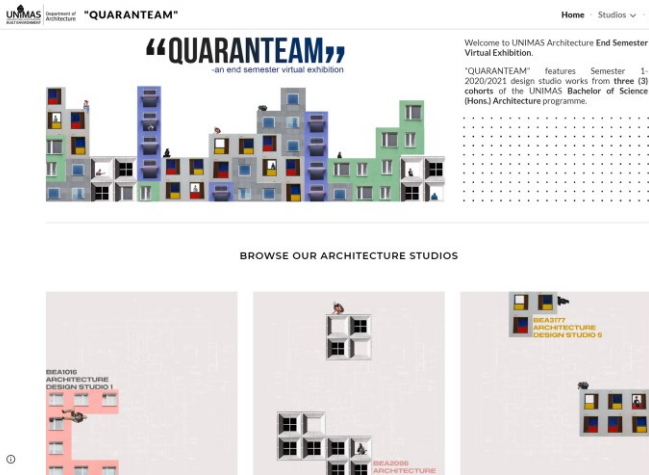
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We foresee that 2021 will be a significant year for the Department of Architecture.



“QUARANTEAM”: From exhibition hall to virtual portal

Written by Dona Rose

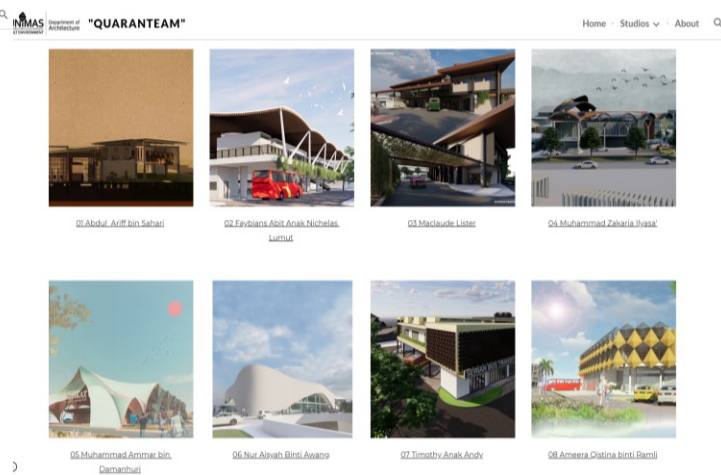


"QUARANTEAM" is an End Semester Virtual Exhibition for Semester 1-2020/2021 by the Bachelor of Science (Hons) Architecture programme. The exhibition represents a semester of exploration, research, critical thinking, problem solving, design and production that was entirely done remotely, off the campus.

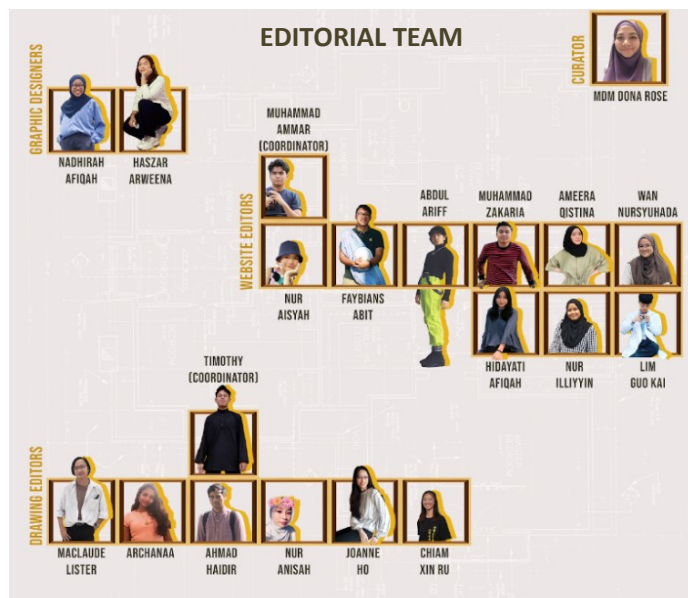
Traditionally held on campus, the end semester exhibition had to depart from its traditional format of installations to virtual platform displays. Due to the unfolding COVID-19 pandemic, for the first time, the programme worked hard to create an exhibition that can be explored through a virtual platform.

We, as the university community, especially the students, have been working under unimaginable constraints during this isolation with a spectrum of emotions. However, together we were unified with the same purpose.

The name "QUARANTEAM" intends to show the spirit of virtual togetherness during isolation, taking on challenges and breaking down barriers caused by the pandemic through creativity.



"QUARANTEAM" celebrates and showcases all the hard work from the three (3) cohorts while advancing new ideas and connecting all the students. The editorial team consists of yours truly and our nineteen (19) UNIMAS architecture students.



We are pleased to share this extensive body of student work with the community of students, colleagues, industry and the general public, an exhibition that has gone from IRL to URL. The exhibition can be viewed at www.unimasarchitecture.com.



The Quantity Surveying Program Establishment

Written by Dr Shazwan Mohamed Shaari

The establishment of the Quantity Surveying Programme began in September 2017 under the Faculty of Engineering. The programme has been granted a Provisional Accreditation from the Malaysian Qualifications Agency (MQA / PA 11184) on 14 August 2018 with the first cohort intake for 2018/2019 session. The Quantity Surveying Programme was officially transferred to the Faculty of Built Environment in September 2018.

The program is a 4-year degree program which exposes students to the Built Environment & Quantity Surveying practice. Student will undergo core courses such as measurement of quantities, estimation for construction works, construction project management, law & contract, construction technology and digital applications and trends in the built environment. The department will be running with a full set of cohorts (Year 1 – 4) beginning October 2021.

The duration of this programme is four (4) years, eight (8) semesters. Graduates from this programme can work with the Public Works Department, State Economic Development Corporation, Local Council, Urban Development Corporation (UDA), Malaysia Highway Authority, Department of Irrigation and Drainage and Institutions of Higher Education. In the private sector, there are job opportunities at quantity surveying consultancy firms, banks and financial institutions, insurance companies, construction development, and corporate organizations.

The increasing number of projects and infrastructure development in Sarawak as well as extensive prospects through the 11th Malaysia Plan create a crucial need for the involvement of Quantity Surveyors in planning and strategizing this development. This in turn provides opportunities for physical development and enhancement of the economic standards of the local community based on the development of the Sarawak Corridor of Renewable energy (SCORE) and the Digital Economy Initiative.



Department of Quantity Surveying Planning for 2021

Written by Sr Sitti Diana Tamjehi

With the new UNIMAS strategic plan 2021-2025, the quantity surveying (QS) programme has taken steps to formulate several strategic plans to be in line with the direction of UNIMAS. As we know, the Covid 19 pandemic crisis has had a major impact on the strategic plans of all academic programmes. In 2021, the Quantity Surveying Programme has planned various strategies in line with the current situation experienced by the state of Sarawak.

1. Future-ready graduates

The QS Programme has planned several key performance indicators (KPI) to produce the future-ready graduates demanded by today's industry. As of now, the QS department has implemented several KPIs such as to strengthen the core courses that have future-ready elements. The elements required for this KPI are fluid & organic curriculum structure, transformative teaching & learning delivery, and the creation of alternative assessments. All courses will be targeted to achieved these elements through both teaching and learning methods and assessments.

In order to maintain the quality of future-ready graduates, the QS department has implemented a continuous quality improvement (CQI) workshop for this year on 4-5 March 2021. This is the second time CQI has been conducted since this programme started on September 2018.

Student satisfaction in terms of teaching, facilities, and support services also needs to keep improving over time to ensure student comfort in pursuing knowledge. There are so many plans to improve student satisfaction, including building renovations for a cafeteria space, a new bus station, additional parking, new labs and teaching halls, and others which are still in the design process.

To involve students in contributing to the wider community, the QS programme planned 47 individual volunteer participants in community services, including the SULAM programme, entrepreneur programmes via assignments in MPU (General Studies) courses, 90% compliance to community opinion and impact, and more. Last year, 16 QS students were involved in community services in Kampung Sungai Putin, Sadong Jaya combining classroom learning with community service.





2. Research excellence

Research is very important to make sure students get updated knowledge and information. Excellence in research will help programme development and achievement of university KPIs. Currently, although the QS department only has ten (10) academicians, it makes a significant contribution to research and publication. For this year's planning, the QS department has set a target to produce three (3) Principal Investigators, win RM200k in grants from KPT/International/Industry sources, nine (9) publications in WOS/IS/SCOPUS/ERA, two (2) citations per staff, two (2) instances of research reach outside the academic context, and one (1) book which will be published soon.

Overall, academicians in the QS department possess the right qualities and abilities to raise the QS programme to greater success. Most department targets have already been reached by midyear: more than 56% of lecturers holding a PhD, at least two (2) staff members with professional qualification, three (3) staff members with industry experience, and two (2) staff members appointed as RISM committee members and external examiners. The department also targets a number of professional appointments in various agencies, enrolment of at least 50% of staff in talent development programmes such as a Postgraduate Diploma (HETL), seminars, in-house or external workshops and others.



3. Talent Excellence

Currently, in term of academic qualification, QS department has six (6) lecturers with PhD which is equal to 60% from overall total and four (4) lecturer with Master degree qualification which is equal to 40% from overall total. In term of industry background, five (5) lecturers has more than 5 years experience in industry, five (5) registered quantity surveyor and the rest register as graduate member under Board of Quantity Surveyor Malaysia (BQSM) and Royal Institution of Surveyor



“Currently, all the academicians in QS department possesses a good quality and ability to develop the QS programme to be more successful.”

By this year, the QS department plans to visit public and private universities in Peninsular Malaysia, including UiTM, the University of Reading, and Heriot-Watt University. If the pandemic problem has been resolved, we intend to visit in October 2021. If department is still not permitted, we will visit the institutions surrounding Sarawak only. The aim of these visits is to learn how other universities execute their programmes in order to become benchmarks for our own here at UNIMAS. This benchmarking is one of the department's strengths in meeting full accreditation criteria.

4.Global Prominence

QS department has targeted an enrollment of 60 students every year. Yet, the demand for the programme is really high. Every year, the QS department receives more than 60 applications from various backgrounds. This means that UNIMAS has done an excellent job in promoting this programme excellent but also that the decision to offer this programme at UNIMAS was an excellent one. The promotional activities executed by the department yearly are to publish through social media, to enter into Memorandums of Understanding (MoU) with international partners, to carry out activities under the MoU, to produce Quantity Surveying educational content for Youtube, active use of the website and *jerawayara* to expand the concept and image of the global classroom.

5.Financial Sustainability

The QS department plans to gain about RM2.6k in revenue from commercial programmes and research contracts such as software training, seminars, talks, and Continuous Professional Development (CPD) workshops this year. The revenue estimate is somewhat low due to limitations from the pandemic.

SUMMARY

For this 2021 strategic plan, programme movement has been limited, especially for outdoor and community activities, benchmarking visits and others. However, planning implementation of the Quantity Surveying programme must be continued. We can maintain the sustainability of the programme as long we focus on our target.

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...planning implementation of the Quantity Surveying Programme must be continued. We can maintain the sustainability of the programme as long we focus on our target.

QS Family Day Beach BBQ Bonfire

March 20, 2021

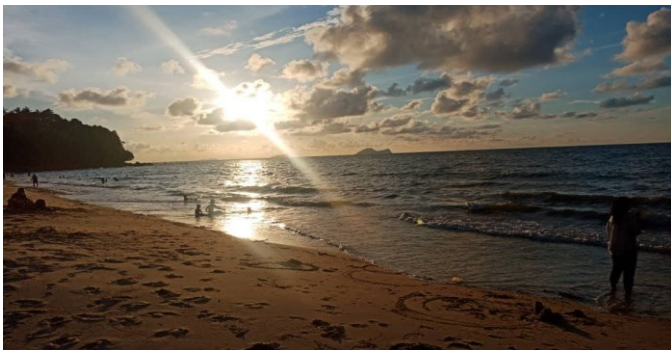
Damai Beach Resort, Kuching

Written by Dr Shazwan Mohamed Shaari

On March 20 2021, The Department of Quantity Surveying conducted a QS Department Family day gathering at Damai Beach Resort, Kuching.

The event was a casual event to reward the department members before the start of the new semester and to provide bonding time for everyone. Luckily for that week, Damai Beach was organizing their famous BBQ Bonfire and the department was able to book a few tables for the event.

All members of the department were present for the event. The images below show a few of our moments.



Surveyors' Congress 2021

April 06-07, 2021

The Waterfront Hotel, Kuching

Written by Dr Shazwan Mohamed Shaari

On April 6th -7th 2021, The Department of Quantity Surveying attended the Surveyors' Congress 2021 at The Waterfront Hotel, Kuching. The congress was organized by The Royal Institution of Surveyors Malaysia (RISM), Sarawak Branch. The two-day event contained two (2) main presentations followed by four (4) parallel sessions. The theme for this year's event was "The future of surveying in Sarawak."

A total of 15 different papers were presented during the conference. One of the papers presented was from our very own Associate Prof Sr Ts Dr Afzan Ahmad Zaini entitled "A Sharing of UNIMAS Research – BIM in Sarawak Construction Industry."



THE FUTURE OF SURVEYING IN SARAWAK

SURVEYORS' CONGRESS 2021



Royal Institution of Surveyors Malaysia
(Sarawak Branch)

Day 1 (Apr 06)	GLS & PS Section	QS Section
0800-0900: Registration & Breakfast	0800-0900: Registration & Breakfast	0800-0900: Registration & Breakfast
0900-1000: Paper 1: The Future of Surveying in Sarawak	0900-1000: Paper 2: The Future of Surveying in Sarawak	0900-1000: Paper 3: The Future of Surveying in Sarawak
1000-1100: Paper 4: The Future of Surveying in Sarawak	1000-1100: Paper 5: The Future of Surveying in Sarawak	1000-1100: Paper 6: The Future of Surveying in Sarawak
1100-1200: Paper 7: The Future of Surveying in Sarawak	1100-1200: Paper 8: The Future of Surveying in Sarawak	1100-1200: Paper 9: The Future of Surveying in Sarawak
1200-1300: Lunch Break	1200-1300: Lunch Break	1200-1300: Lunch Break
1300-1400: Paper 10: The Future of Surveying in Sarawak	1300-1400: Paper 11: The Future of Surveying in Sarawak	1300-1400: Paper 12: The Future of Surveying in Sarawak
1400-1500: Paper 13: The Future of Surveying in Sarawak	1400-1500: Paper 14: The Future of Surveying in Sarawak	1400-1500: Paper 15: The Future of Surveying in Sarawak
1500-1600: Paper 16: The Future of Surveying in Sarawak	1500-1600: Paper 17: The Future of Surveying in Sarawak	1500-1600: Paper 18: The Future of Surveying in Sarawak
1600-1700: Paper 19: The Future of Surveying in Sarawak	1600-1700: Paper 20: The Future of Surveying in Sarawak	1600-1700: Paper 21: The Future of Surveying in Sarawak
1700-1800: Paper 22: The Future of Surveying in Sarawak	1700-1800: Paper 23: The Future of Surveying in Sarawak	1700-1800: Paper 24: The Future of Surveying in Sarawak
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THE FUTURE OF SURVEYING IN SARAWAK

SURVEYORS' CONGRESS 2021

APRIL 06-07, 2021

THE WATERFRONT HOTEL

RISM MEMBER : RM650.00
NON-RISM MEMBER : RM800.00

ONLINE BANKING:
ROYAL INSTITUTION OF SURVEYORS, MALAYSIA (XXI000362)
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RHB BANK ACCOUNT NO.: 21104300084121
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Registration Form : <https://tinyurl.com/ybzj352q>
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“The folks behind Craft Camp aim to cultivate a "Maker's Mindset" among kids as young as 10 years old.

Royal Institution of Surveyors Malaysia
(Sarawak Branch)

QUANTITY SURVEYING (QS), GEOMATICS & LAND SURVEYING (GLS), PROPERTY SURVEYING (PS), & BUILDING SURVEYING (BS)

The Fears We Don't Face Become Our Limits

~Robin Sharma~



BE: 2017-2020

Written by Professor Ar. NurAkmal A. Goh
Dean, Faculty of Built Environment UNIMAS (2018-Present)



Faculty of Built Environment (FBE) in UNIMAS started as Department of Architecture in April 2017 in the Faculty of Engineering. On 01 September 2018 FBE was established and our office was at the C.U.B.E. UNIMAS. In September 2019 FBE moved to the external lab, officially launched on the 11th day of November 2019.

Thanks to the vision of UNIMAS top management, FBE are able to be here today. Beside the river in between the vast natural landscape in the UNIMAS campus, a heaven for reptiles and insects that you may not have seen before, is where you will find BE: Standing!

FBE started with 1 admin staff and 8 academic staff; today there are 10 admin & operational staff and 19 academic staff (inclusive of faculty top management).

BE: WELCOME to visit us here at FBE building (SOP applied).

FBE UNIMAS currently offer one semi professional & one professional programme: the Bachelor of Science in Architecture and the Bachelor of Quantity Surveying, respectively. Since the academic year of 2017/2018 till today, FBE have received a total of 233 students for both programmes and in July 2020 we celebrated our very first 8 graduate students in Bachelor of Science in Architecture with Honours.

In the same month, the Accreditation Council of Malaysia Architecture Education were scheduled to come to accredit FBE UNIMAS Architecture programme, but everything changed when the whole world entered into the Pandemic of the Covid 19 virus, and in March 18th 2020 Malaysia received the first order of CMCO.

In shock, everything seemed to halt.

“
Climb the mountain so you can see the world not so the world can see you.”
David McCullough Jr.

For the past 3 years, members of Faculty of Built Environment have numerous great achievements. In September 2019 FBE was proud when Professor Julaihi Wahid received the Architecture Education Award 2019 from the Malaysia Board of Architects. Since 2018 members of FBE have won awards in research and teaching excellence at the university level, national and international level; especially in the Innovation Technology Expo (InTEX); UNIMAS Curriculum Innovation Learner Exhibition (CiLEX) and the Digitalised International Invention Innovation and Design (DIID). Although a new faculty with young academicians, members are actively promoting the strength of FBE via publication in index journals and books. We will continue to strive to bring FBE to another level, enhancing the built environment and nurturing the future leaders in the field, locally and globally.

In the past 2 years, FBE actively collaborated with local professional bodies in organizing international events; in 2018, we successfully collaborated with Board of Quantity Surveyors in organizing the Asia Pacific QS Education forum in UNIMAS, we entered into MoU with 3 universities in Indonesia and a global classroom between us was established by members of FBE who become tutors for teaching and learning in their architecture programme. We look forward to more activities with our Indonesian counterparts,

*“If everyone is
moving forward
together, then
success takes care of
itself.”
~Henry Ford~*

We have also actively joined in collaboration with related local industry groups, such as the Sarawak Housing Developer Association, CIDB, JKR and SIC, with whom we are in talks to enter into MoU for research and academics activities. Our members are also actively involved with the Sarawak Heritage Society in promoting tangible and intangible cultural and heritage conservation and preservation; especially the built structures and the value of heritage architectures. Dr. Atta Idrawani of FBE is one of the council member of SHS for the term of 2020/2021.



BE: Beyond 2021

Written by Professor Ar. NurAkmal A. Goh

Moving forward; though the nation was or is still being hit by the Covid 19 Pandemic, teaching and learning (T&L) in FBE, like the other faculties, moved to online T&L. The existing ELeap T&L platform of UNIMAS prepared us well to face the challenges, and the students were quick to adapt too. The success in adapting keeps us moving forward. Despite challenges along the way, it has provided a lot of possibilities and opportunities. 2020 ended with social distancing and a tagline of stay safe, stay healthy, stay home. When 2021 arrived, everyone prayed for it to be a good year, and it will: the light shall be there at the end of the path. FBE will keep moving forward with UNIMAS.

INCLUSIVE, GLOBAL, SUSTAINABLE
UNIMAS Strategy Plan 2021-2025 brought forward a vision: "A Leading Global University for a Sustainable Future", and a mission "to enhance the social and economic impacts on the global community through the pursuit of excellence in teaching, research and strategic engagement." As a young faculty in UNIMAS, FBE embraced that Vision & Mission, strategizing our way forward in accordance with UNIMAS SP2021-2025, completing the FBE SP2021-2025 in January 2021.

work Achieving it
We strive to put FBE on the world map. Being in UNIMAS and the Island of Borneo, with its diverse culture, heritage and ecosystem, it has already made us UNIQUE: we have a large lab out there for us to reach out to and explore,

Where do we go from here? Around the Globe! With Who? Everyone! Nobody shall be left out, and FBE will keep going. ***BE:INSPIRE.***

Our students are our inspiration, they are the future leaders of the Built Environment.



“
Be kind and be competitive in any field that you are pursuing. Be the change that the world needs,”

~Prof Datuk Dr Mohamad
Kadim Suaidi~ 2019
UNIMAS Vice Chancellor

“
The First Step Towards Getting Somewhere Is To Decide That You Are Not Going To Stay Where You Are.”
John Pierpont Morgan

FBE: Story to tell

Written by Professor Ar. Dr. Julaihi Wahid

The Chinese New Year celebration

The new year 2021, the year of the Ox, seems subdued by the continuous pandemic cases of Covid 19 that started in March 2019. Although January was over and we assumed that the new daybreak of 2021 may shine the hope of life as normal, it turned out not as we thought. The Chinese New Year celebration fell on 12 February and it helped to cheer up UNIMAS and the Kota Samarahan environment with colourful decorations on the shop fronts and encouraged the movement of people on their shopping sprees. FBE celebrated the Year of the Ox on a Wednesday with a treat by the Dean, Prof. Ar. Nur Akmal to share the spirit of harmony among the staffs. The delicious Chinese food together with a few choice delicacies brought by the FBE staff to complement the lunch really showed the cooperation among the members of the faculty. Although it was just a simple celebration, it was received warmly by everyone.



Semester exam

February also marked the end of the 1st semester examination and the marking of the courses began. The examination was conducted online and some assignments were submitted by students through the eLeap system. This marked the first time where the online system was really taking its path. The lectures via online had started in November 2020 and continued until January 2021. The online examination changed the way questions are set, so that objective-type questions were discouraged.

Architecture courses suffer a great deal when it comes to online teaching. It is the way of the architecture discipline that the studio master needs to visualize the process of the design, the analysis, the concepts, the details, the colour scheme, the detailing of the building components and the overall presentation before assessing the work. Design evaluation through an online system cannot guarantee a clear image of each presentation. The computer screen could only show the images of design faintly, controlled by the students on the other side, dampening our desire to evaluate rigorously. Of course, this not only happened in UNIMAS, but other higher institutions offering architecture courses also experienced the same predicament. The end of the semester examinations meant the semester had ended and the second semester would start in March 2021. It was announced that the students will return to the campus starting from 1st March and undergo a quarantine for 14 days. Those who were free from Covid 19 would join the class as usual.

Breakfast Club

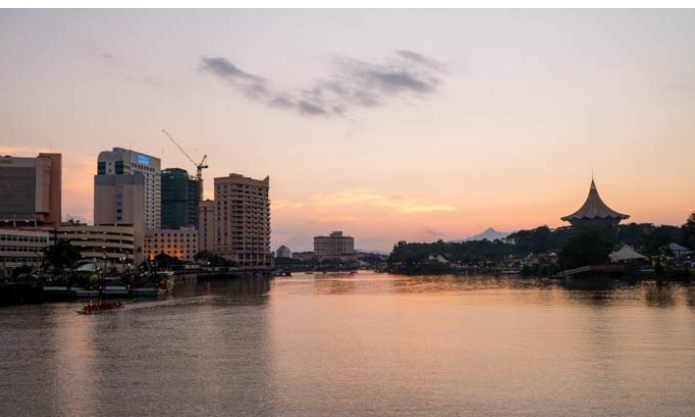
Every morning at 8.00am, it is a routine for the academic staff to have a cup of coffee before they start to work. UNIMAS is located about 25 kilometers from Kuching, the capital of Sarawak. It is quite far for a cup of coffee if we are to have it in Kuching; furthermore, the traffic congestion may hinder the smooth flow of the journey. Samarahan is a new urbanized area with UNIMAS as the impetus for its growth since 1986. Kota Samarahan is now categorised as a town, developed by few developers beginning with business centres. The business centre in Sarawak may start with one or two blocks of shop houses with about ten units per block, depending on the size of the land. There are a few food stalls, and family restaurants located in the shop houses. The café, stalls and moderate-size family restaurants are the common place where local dishes and cuisine are served. The most visited cafés are Sahira, Pinang Bistro, Teck Kong, Restoran 1 Malaysia and now Warung 2000. Sometimes the choice and preference of food are the main reasons for frequent visits, while occasionally there may be other sensational reasons that spike the visit.

The Breakfast Club of FBE are mostly male staff who live alone in Kota Samarahan while their family are either in West Malaysia or abroad.

The splendour of the Breakfast Club is that it enables the close ties of the staff to develop - "siraturrahim" as it is called in Malay. Among other things it creates a close understanding for whatever task is to be endeavoured upon officially later on. The members of the Breakfast Club are usually headed by Prof. Dr. Azaili or Prof Ar. Dr. Julaihi and a few other members: namely, Dr. Bambang, Dr. Shazwan, Fairuz, Mr. Wafi and sometimes Mr. Drahman joins in too. During the meal sessions the discussions may start with academics, state and federal political issues, cases of pandemic in Kota Samarahan, Kuching or Sarawak in general. It is a healthy informal meeting ground for staff to get to know each other well. It is through these informal meetings that a few research proposals and teaching projects take off.

Kuching Theory

Kuching is the capital of Sarawak and the gateway to Borneo. It is located on the banks of the Sarawak River. Kuching was known to the outside world after the arrival of James Brooke in 1839. James Brooke referred his berth area for his ship (Royalist) as "coachin" from which the name Kuching is derived. He referred to "coachin" which means port in the Malayalam language spoken where Brooke first landed in India before he was swept away by the monsoon wind and landed at the mouth of Sarawak River. Manja Ismail in his writing said that Kuching is not derived from "cat" as most visitors from outside Sarawak may be led to believe. The locals used the term "pusak" for cat. There is another theory that the name came from "Sungai Kuching" - a stream that flowed from the reservoir through the hill where the old Borneo Company Building were located. Another theory says that there were plenty of "buah mata kucing" - a type of fruit similar to "longan" growing near the hill of the old Borneo Company Buildings which are now part of Hilton Hotel. Today, this humble city is the home of 612,000 people and growing to be one of the metropolises of the future.



Durian Season

Durian is an important fruit among Malaysians. In Sarawak, Durian season is a windfall season for the fruit sellers. Samarahan has long been popular for its durian. Kampung Merdang Gayam was once the ground for good and plentiful durians. However, the durian trees have disappeared slowly and been replaced by housing estates to accommodate the growing population of Kota Samarahan. We could find a number of small holdings in Kampung Merdang Gayam, Kampung Malaban, Kampung Sigitin and Kampung Meranek, where corn, vegetables, cocoa and rubber are grown. Today, cocoa and rubber trees can hardly be seen in the area. Although the residents of conventional homes plant corn and vegetables within the plot of their houses, it is only on a small scale. Usually durian appears in November and continues until early March. The durian from Padawan, Serian, Simunjan and even from Sri Aman pass through the Serian-Samarahan Highway and stop at Kota Samarahan for distribution. The quality of the durian is good and very delicious due to its natural growth and absence of cross-breeding with other durian species. However, this year the price of durian per fruit shot sky-high due to less supply. The price per fruit can reach 45 to 75 Ringgit with supply much less compared to the years before. The common location for Durian stalls in Kota Samarahan is near the Aiman Mall, behind the block close to Restoran 1 Malaysia.

Flood In Kuching

December 2020 shook the residents of Kuching with a great flood in some areas especially those villages situated along the Sarawak River. Since the construction of the water barrage at the Isthmus, the flood prone areas have experienced quite a relief. Last December, the annual high tide at the Sarawak River and the water level along the barrage increased tremendously leading to dangerous floods that submerged the villages and several areas in the town. Flooding in Kuching is not new; since the 1960s some areas have changed their course due to degradation and erosion. The littoral of the river bank decreased and some houses along the river disappeared. The Sarawak River is among the breeding grounds for crocodiles.

During the floods, a number of crocodiles swim to otherwise unreachable areas where they have never been before, causing alarm among the villagers. This is very dangerous and in some areas cases of villagers accidentally being bitten by crocodiles are increasing too. Kuching should mobilize during the flood season by organizing social or cultural activities so that the flood season may become a blessing instead of a tragedy.

Birthday And Farewell

The Faculty of Built Environment is a new faculty, with Architecture and Quantity Surveying the two newest courses among the established faculties in UNIMAS. Quite a number of staff in other faculties may not know that FAB/FBE exists. Some staff thought that Architecture and Quantity Surveying is still parked under the Faculty of Engineering. The new faculty is located at a new place with its own building and facilities equipped with all the architectural and quantity surveying studios, classes, meeting and discussion rooms, workshops, printing and administration rooms. This year, the Architecture Programme is going for accreditation and the preparation for the panel visits from the Board of Architects will be a tedious preparation.

Turn-over of staff at the faculty has been quite high, with new members leaving for better pastures elsewhere. Last November, we lost Dr. Iziq and at the end of February we lost Dr Azzalila. Mr Tajuddin, our Assistant engineer that assisting us since the beginning also has returned to the Faculty of Engineering on last November. However, life goes on. The birthday of the staff is greeted with joy and staff who have new babies are celebrated to replace the missing friends. The sporting Dean and Deputy Registrar always lead the high spirit of celebration for farewells, birthdays and newly born babies.



Makan- Makan In Kuching

Kuching as the gateway to Sarawak is blessed with natural beauty and physical features from the remnants of colonial buildings and Malay villages across the navigable Sarawak River that enchant the visitor's experience to this humble city. Sarawak's diverse ethnic groups consist of the Iban, Bidayuh, Malays, Chinese, Melanau and orang Ulu, to name a few, comprising a colorful integration of cultures with the progress of the modern city. Morning breakfast menu in Kuching is basically noodles. While in West Malaysia it might be "nasi lemak", "roti canai" or "nasi berlauk", here "Laksa Sarawak", "Mi kolok", "Kampua", "Mi Jawa", "Mi goreng" and "Mi Bak Kut" (in Kuching lamb is used) are among the popular selections of noodles served in Kuching. It is not unusual that the noodles may be served differently from one stall to another. Actually, the original "Mi Kolok" is served with "kolong mi", sliced beef tripe and liver, bean sprouts, beef broth, and coriander leaves as condiments, with galangal and chilli sauce to give extra flavour. Mi Jawa is served with yellow noodles and spicy broth (spices and dried prawn) with sliced beef, boiled egg, and celery leaves added on. "Laksa Sarawak" is only found in Sarawak, served with rice vermicelli, bean sprouts, shredded chicken, spicy curry-like gravy, coriander leaves, cooked prawns and thinly sliced fried egg. Usually "sambal" with "calamansi juice" is added to increase the flavour.

The breakfast menu is almost the same in all stalls in Kuching, but the taste, the way it is served and the environment influence the patrons to these areas. The most popular in Kuching are those located at the old Satok area where all the original tastes still can be found. Since the pandemic, there are a few more stalls along the roads especially in Petra Jaya. The laid off workers from the private agencies and the factories add to the number of existing hawkers in the area, increasing the choice of food offered during breakfast.

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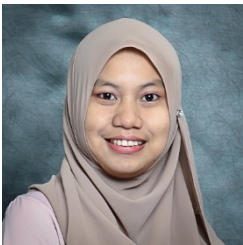


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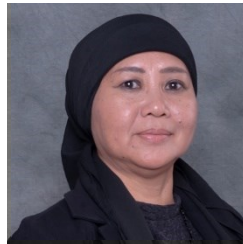


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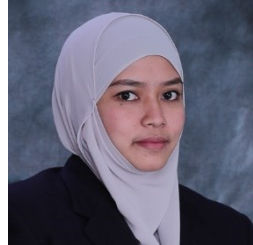
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binti Tamjehi**



**Dr. Shazwan bin
Mohamed Shaari**



**Dr. Siti
Syariazulfa binti
Kamaruddin**