

The Putrajaya Master Plan

The 1990's

Dato' (Prof.) Zainuddin Muhammad became the Director-General of the department in 1993. During his tenure, planning for Putrajaya and Cyberjaya were undertaken in the early 1990's.

The Town and Country Planning Act of 1976 was amended in 1995 to give coverage to environmental conservation, topography, landscaping and tree preservation. The Town Planners Act (Act 538) was also introduced in 1995 to regulate the practice of town and country planning in the country.

In the 1990's, the main focus of the department was on 'sustainable planning' with the introduction of the Universal Planning Doctrine and various planning guidelines to guide local planning authorities in the country.

Selangor led the way by taking the initiative to implement Agenda 21 through the Selangor Sustainable Development Strategy and Selangor Environmentally Sensitive Area Policy. Other major initiatives during the period include the undertaking of research during the late 1990's to measure sustainability of urban areas through the Malaysian Urban Indicators Network (MURNInet) programme; this initiative is still being undertaken today.

The New Millennium ... 2000 And Beyond

Dato Wan Mohamad Mukhtar Mohd Noor was appointed the Director-General in 2001. In the same year, the Town and Country Planning Act of 1976 was again amended to rationalise the powers of the Federal and State Governments relating to town and country planning. This paved the way for the setting up of the Malaysian Physical Planning Council (MPPC), the formation of various Regional Planning Councils, the preparation of the National Physical Plan, and the requirement to consult and seek advise from MPPC regarding (a) the development of new townships with more than 10,000 residents or exceeding 100 hectares; (b) the development on hilltops or hill slopes within environmentally-sensitive areas; and (c) the construction of major infrastructure or facilities.

Dato' Abd. Mutualib Jelani was appointed the Director-General from 2003 till 2005. During his tenure, planning studies extended to Special Planning Areas and various planning guidelines were earmarked for revision and updated. Planning methodology also took on a more scientific approach and participatory planning enhanced within the plan-making process.

In March 2005, Dato' Mohd. Fadzil Mohd. Khr was appointed as the Director-General and still is the current head of the department.

Chronology: Establishment of planning departments and planning legislations

Year	Establishment of Planning Departments and Enactments
1921	Town Planning Department at Kuala Lumpur (January 18)
1923	Town Planning Enactment
1925	Ipooh Branch of Town Planning Department (February 16)
1927	Town Planning Enactment (superseding 1923's)
1937	CAP 137 of Sanitary Board Enactment
1947	WW II; closure of department
1955-56	Regional offices in Johor Bahru, Ipoh and Penang
Year	Establishment of State Town Planning Departments after Independence
1958	Perak, Johore and Selangor
1959	Penang
1960	Pahang
1963	Kelantan
1965	Kedah
1969	Terengganu
1974	Regional Planning Office in Kuantan
1976	Town and Country Planning Act (Act 172)
1977	Malacca
1978	Perlis
1981	Landscape Unit at Head Office
1987	Project Offices in Alor Setar, Kuala Lumpur, Malacca and Kuantan
1990	Public Parks Coordination and Monitoring Division at Head Office
1993	Town and Country Planning (Amendment) Act (Act A866)
1995	Town and Country Planning (Amendment) Act (Act A933)
1995	Town Planners Act (Act 538)
1996	National Landscape Department
2001	Town and Country Planning (Amendment) Act (Act A1129)

Description of front cover

The front illustration shows a montage of Lembah Bilut FELDA Scheme (the first FELDA scheme in the country and planned by JPBD), Petaling Jaya town, the FMS logo and a photo of Charles Reade, FMS's first Government Town Planner.

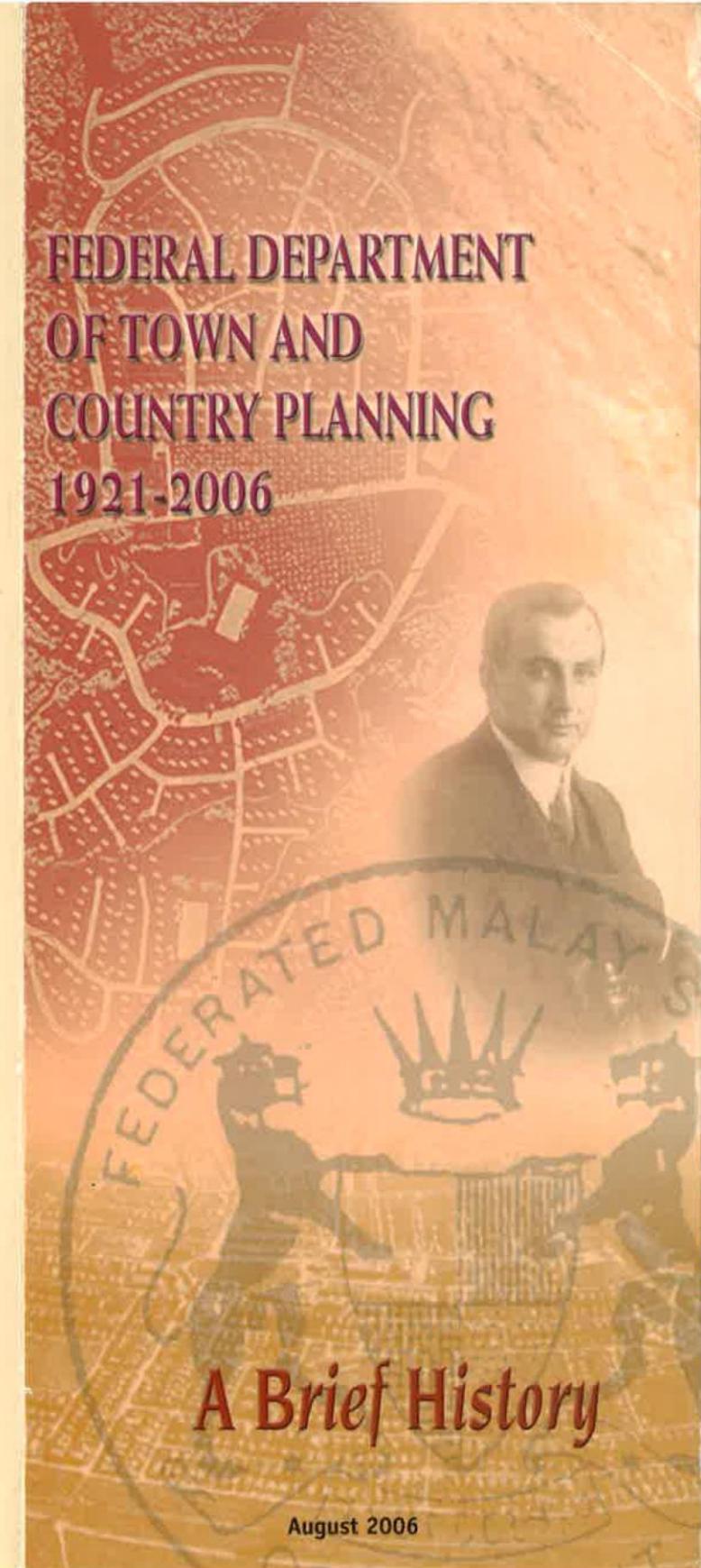


Prepared by:



Research and Development Division
Federal Department of Town and
Country Planning, Peninsular Malaysia
Telephone: 03-26989211 Fax: 03-26933964
www.townplan.gov.my

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The layout plan of the Government Quarters in Jalan Imbi, Kuala Lumpur was based on the Garden City principles

The Earliest Town Planning Services In Malaya

In 1801, a Committee of Assessors was set up in Penang to provide initial town planning services. It comprised of voluntary members who provided planning services to develop the town in a way that fulfilled the needs of its dwellers (such as the development of Penang's road network of Light Street, Beach Street and Pitt Street). Their contributions were the earliest recorded town planning activities in the country.

The Need For Town Planning Services

A proposal on the town planning needs for the country was first drawn up by W.F. Nutt (1912). He recommended to the Federal Council of the Federated Malay States (FMS) that action be taken to prevent further unplanned town development and expansion. A town planning legislation was required for Kuala Lumpur so that the town could be divided according to trading zones and areas for various activities (Federal Council, 1913). Similarly, a number of Federal Councillors had also called for a proper town planning legislation. Subsequently, E.L. Brockman (Chief Secretary of the FMS) announced the establishment of a Town Planning Committee for Kuala Lumpur to provide planning services for the town. However, it took another eight years for a planning department to be established.



Town Planning Department at Jalan Clarke (which now houses the Federal Court)

The Beginning

On the 3rd of September 1920, the South Australian Government received a cable from the British Government inviting its Government Town Planner, Charles Reade, to the Federated Malay States to advise on town planning (Veale, 1976). This heralded the beginning of town planning in the country and the first town planning office was subsequently opened at the Kuala Lumpur Secretariat Building on the 18th of January 1921. In the following years, Reade's service was renewed several times by Winston Churchill, who was then the Secretary of State at the Colonial Office in London.

From 1921 to 1927, Reade was assisted by public surveyors and engineers seconded from the Survey and Public Works Department. Administrative Officers from the Land Office were also roped in as Town Planning Administrators for replanning and distribution of lots. The relocation and layout of Victoria Institution, the widening of main roads,

and the straightening of the Klang River were some of the tasks undertaken by the department, including the construction of government quarters and provision of public housing in Jalan Imbi, Kuala Lumpur.

Reade drafted the first planning legislation, the Town Planning Enactment of 1923, which introduced the General Town Plans, and undertook the replanning and redistribution of lots in Kuala Lumpur and several towns in the FMS, using methods that were similar to what were practiced in Germany (Lex Adickes, 1902). The layout of the first new town was prepared for Kuala Kubu Bharu in 1924 to replace Ampang Pechah, which suffered perennial flooding.

The second planning legislation, the Town Planning Enactment of 1927 replaced the 1923 Enactment. During this time, the Town Planning Committee was placed within the Sanitary Board, while town planning services were provided by a Town Planning Superintendent (a new position) at the state level, with the Town Planning Department in Kuala Lumpur retained as its Federal Office. Reade also planned the development of Cameron Highlands based on the Baguio Resort in the Philippines and the layouts for parts of Kuala Terengganu and Jesselton (now Kota Kinabalu). At the end of 1929, the department had five qualified planning officers all of whom were from Britain.

After Reade retired in 1929, R.P. Davies headed the department. The services of all town planning officers were terminated in 1933, except for R.P. Davies, due to worsening worldwide economic slump. Town planning services were then limited to the FMS.

World War Two

In 1941, the department was temporarily closed due to World War Two and reopened under the Japanese Administration. It was closed again on the 1st of October 1943 and reopened on the 3rd of May 1944 and placed under the Public Works Department until T.H.H. Hancock, an architect and planner, arrived in September 1946.

After World War Two

After the Second World War, the department's activities widened to encompass all Municipal Boards and Municipal Councils in the then Malayan Union and the post of Planning Officer was then known as the Malayan Union Town Planning Officer.



T.A.L. Concannon

T.A.L. Concannon headed the department between 1955 and 1956 where he set up three area offices in Johor Bahru, Ipoh and Penang. The office in Kuala Lumpur although retained as the Federal Head Office, provided planning services for Selangor, Negeri Sembilan and Pahang. The housing layout plans for FELDA schemes and Petaling Jaya new town were prepared during this period. The implementation of the Petaling Jaya new town plan was placed under the supervision of T.A.L. Concannon until a senior engineer, Francis McWilliams, arrived at the end of 1954 (Francis later became the Lord Mayor of London from 1992 to 1993).

After Independence

The planning service was placed under the "Concurrent List" of the Federal Constitution and conducted at Federal and State levels. The department was restructured through the setting up of the State Town and Country Planning offices throughout Peninsular Malaysia. In 1970, Dato' Rosli Buyong was appointed Director-General of the department and during his tenure, a landscape unit was established in 1981 (which subsequently became the National Landscape Department in 1996 under the Ministry of Housing and Local Government).

The Town and Country Planning Act of 1976 (Act 172)

The TCP Act of 1976 introduced the Structure and Local Plans with the Seremban Structure Plan being the first to be prepared under it. Structure Plans were then initiated for other major towns in the Peninsular and subsequently followed by the first generation Local Plans in the mid-80's.

During the mid and late 1970's, branch offices were set up to provide planning services to regional development authorities such as DARA, JENGKA and KESEDAR. Plans to relocate the Aborigines (Orang Asli) in the Titiwangsa Region were undertaken in 1979 involving 25 schemes.

With the retirement of Dato' Rosli in 1985, Mr Chung Weng Foo took over as Director-General, and was later succeeded by Datuk Mohamed Ishak Mohd Ariff in 1986.



Dato' Rosli Buyong