

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

1ST INTERNATIONAL URBAN PLANNING CONFERENCE

(INUPC) 2024

**“ADVANCING INCLUSION AND INNOVATION FOR
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT PLANNING”**

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**“EMPOWERING FUTURES: COLLABORATION AND
PARTNERSHIP FOR INCLUSIVE AND INNOVATIVE
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT”**

23rd June 2024 (Sunday) | 8:00 am – 5.00 pm

**Dewan Senat, Bangunan Canseleri Sultan Ibrahim,
Universiti Teknologi Malaysia, Johor Bahru**

Bismillahirrahmanirrahim.

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ وَالصَّلَوةُ وَالسَّلَامُ عَلَى أَشْرَفِ الْأَئْبِيَاءِ
وَالْمُرْسَلِينَ وَعَلَىٰٰ إِلَيْهِ وَصَحْبِهِ أَجْمَعِينَ.

Assalamualaikum wbt, good morning, Salam Sejahtera, Salam Malaysia MADANI and Salam PLANMalaysia, **Leading the National Development Planning Agenda.**

- SALUTATION DISEDIAKAN BERASINGAN -

INTRODUCTION

1. Syukur alhamdulillah, dengan limpah dan kurniaNya, it gives me a great pleasure to be with all delegates this morning at the opening of the **1st International Urban Planning Conference (iNUPC) 2024**. The theme of the conference, **“Advancing Inclusion and Innovation For Sustainable Development Planning”** is timely and very significant in the real context of contemporary exercise and process of urban development. Furthermore, we are at the era of digitalization, urban development planning process certainly cannot be separated and neglected in the overall agenda of digitalization.

2. First and foremost, on behalf of PLANMalaysia and as an alumni of UTM, I would like to express my deepest gratitude and appreciation to UTM, especially the Faculty of Built Environment and Surveying, for inviting me to share my knowledge, thoughts and experiences in relation to current updates, new planning governance and thoughts as well as initiatives that are currently applied and implemented in Malaysia's urban planning system. As an alumni of UTM, it is an honour to be here, and I am more than willing to share my expertise with both the academics and the students.
3. Over the years, PLANMalaysia has always supported all the activities and programs organized by UTM such as being a speaker, panellist, moderator in expert talk programs and sharing sessions. Similarly, UTM lecturers have been invaluable to us, always engaged by us as experts to consult in our meetings, workshops and seminars, especially in the field of **low-carbon cities, social impact assessment and sustainable development**.
4. Last year, we have taken our collaboration a step further by signing a **Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)** between PLANMalaysia and UTM. This strategic collaboration has strengthened our commitment to work together in exploring, researching and improving urban planning.

5. Indeed, we need each other to support and improve the standard and quality of the urban planning profession. It shows that our role is relevant and we are able to produce a quality, knowledgeable, professional and **future-proof urban planners**. To the students and young planners here today, I want to emphasize how crucial your role is in advancing the urban planning profession. You are the future leaders who will shape the cities of tomorrow. Your ideas, energy, and passion are what will not only drive innovation, but about the value and promote diversity and inclusivity in every aspects of urban development agenda.

Distinguished Guest, Ladies and Gentlemen.

THE IMPORTANCE OF THE URBAN PLANNING

6. According to a famous British urban planner, Lewis Keeble (1950s),

Planning is the ART and SCIENCE of ordering the use of land and the character and siting of buildings and communication routes so as to secure the maximum practicable degree of economy, convenience and beauty.

7. Urban planning is seen as a very important role in the development process to achieve a balance between economic, environmental and social well-being. After over a century of urban planning development since 1921, I would like to stress that urban planning in Malaysia must evolve and move forward to be **MORE SCIENTIFIC AND EVIDENCE-BASED. MAKING SENSE OF DATA** should be a top priority of urban planners. We need to enhance our knowledge of **planning methodologies, statistical analysis and understanding of big data, including AI**. We need to focus not just the **art of urban planning** but also on the **science behind it**, and the **proof of the future** based on **scientific data and data analytic** in the perspective of **descriptive, predictive and prescriptive**.

8. Therefore, we must **equip ourselves with multi-discipline knowledge** and be able to advise from various perspectives to ensure that holistic planning is implemented before other processes begin such as building design, engineering, and landscape work. By doing so, planning profession can stand on par with others like engineers, surveyors and technologists.

Distinguished Guest, Ladies and Gentlemen.

MALAYSIA's DEMOGRAPHIC AND URBANISATION SCENARIO

9. Allow me to give you a brief overview of our current urban planning scenario. Our population is rapidly urbanizing, with over 75.5% of our 33.4 million population now living in urban areas. As we look ahead, we aim to manage this growth carefully, targeting **not more than 85% urbanization rate by 2040** to ensure urban development can be managed effectively and efficiently without disturbing natural resources and environmental sensitive areas as well as rural settlements.
10. We also face the challenge of an **AGEING SOCIETY**. Recent demographic statistics show that 7.4% of our population is over 65 years old and projected to reach 15% by 2030. This demographic shift means we need to rethink our urban spaces and infrastructures to be more inclusive, accessible and friendly to all groups of urban dwellers. This matter should be a concern of urban planners and urban managers to realise the inclusivity in urban development process.
11. Like most cities in the world, **WE ARE NOT IMMUNE TO CLIMATE CHANGE** threats. In recent years, we have

experienced multiple climate-related disasters, putting us into the "**NATURAL DISASTER-PRONE**" category. We have no choice, we need to find means and ways to combat climate change and mitigate its impacts to our cities, currently and in the future.

PMX AND MALAYSIA MADANI's ASPIRATION

12. Aware of these challenges, our commitment to creating inclusive and innovative sustainable cities, enhancing the quality of life for our RAKYAT (people) is all encapsulated in the '**Malaysia MADANI's Aspiration**'. This aspiration focuses on **six core values**, namely **Sustainability, Well-being, Innovation & creativity, Respect, Confidence and Compassion (courtesy and mercy)**. It is about translating human value-based approach to the national development agenda.

13. All six key pillars will be and have to be mainstreamed into eight (8) aspects which are:
 - (i) **Economic and financial;**
 - (ii) **Legal framework;**
 - (iii) **Institutional arrangement;**
 - (iv) **Education;**

- (v) Social;
- (vi) Cultural;
- (vii) Urban area, and
- (viii) Rural area.

14. As we can see, **urban** and **rural** have been recognised as 2 important aspects of **MALAYSIA MADANI**. **HUMANITY AND SUSTAINABILITY** shall be given priority, to support efficient urban planning and governance. This can be done through human centric urban planning (**MERAKYATKAN PERANCANGAN BANDAR**), either by developing policies and plans which are **HUMAN CENTRED** and in **HUMAN SCALE** or by promoting **INCLUSIVE PARTICIPATION** in the planning process towards '**FUTURE-PROOF CITIES**'.

MADANI ECONOMY - THE DUTY OF URBAN PLANNING

15. To further strengthen the **MALAYSIA MADANI**, "**MADANI ECONOMY: Empowering the People**" was introduced. It has two main goals: first, to restructure the economy with the aim to position Malaysia as one of Asia's economic leaders; and second, to ensure better income to the people so they can live with higher quality lives.

16. The three (3) pillars of MADANI Economy are "**RAISE THE CEILING**", "**RAISE THE FLOOR**" and "**BUILD BACK BETTER**". Economic Framework MADANI can be likened to rebuilding a 'Malaysia House' by strengthening its foundations, raising its floor (by providing a social safety net to the people), raise the ceiling (by generating economy growth) and raise the pillars.
17. The MADANI ECONOMY, coupled with the recently launched **KL20** aimed at propelling Kuala Lumpur as top 20 global start-up hubs by 2030, The **National Energy Transition Roadmap (NETR)** and **New Industrial Master Plan 2030 (NIMP 2030)**, and **Mid Term Review of Twelfth Malaysia Plan** (2021 – 2025). All these initiatives have set new targets in terms of economy, environment and social well-being for our country. PLANMalaysia, as the custodian to Malaysia's urban planning with the support by all the planning authorities are committed to deliver this vision through our upcoming **5th National Physical Plan and 3rd National Urbanization Policy**. **WE ARE THE ONES AND WE ARE CONFIDENT TO DELIVER THE VISIONS OF LIVEABLE, INCLUSIVE AND INNOVATIVE HUMAN SETTLEMENT FOR MALAYSIA.**

Distinguished Guest, Ladies and Gentlemen.

18. Other than talking about the subject of economy per se, the message behind from me is about urban planning and economy, where urban planners have no choice, but to enrich knowledge and understanding about economics, finance, fiscal policies and economic planning. Our Minister of Housing and Local Government has also taken proactive steps to review the ministry initiatives so that they are in line with the framework of MADANI ECONOMY. Out of the five (5) progressive agendas of KPCT to empower the people, two (2) involve roles of urban planning and management, namely:

- (i) Ease of Doing Business** - Aims to improve both the processes and procedures of the Planning Permission;
- (ii) Develop the Planning Guidelines for Electric Vehicle Charging Bay (EVCB)** - To support the EV ecosystem in the country and help the Government achieve its target of 10,000 EV charging stations by 2025 **(2288 EVCB to date)**.

19. As a quick win to support the ECONOMI MADANI, a new paradigm shift is needed from merely controlling development (development control) to actively encouraging or **facilitating development**. We need to make it easier to do business by introducing the 3 new OSC initiative, namely **Industrial Green Lane**, **Pre-requisite**, and **Self Regulation**. These initiatives aim to stimulate the economic growth, attract investment, and help lift the national economy from the trap of a static economic cycle.

Distinguished Guest, Ladies and Gentlemen.

20. Alongside with the MALAYSIA MADANI's aspiration by our honourable PMX, we have a bigger role to play. We have to revisit our way of developing cities and regions that are not only functional but stressing on **HUMAN CENTRIC URBAN PLANNING** which are **harmonious**, **people-centric**, and **conducive to the well-being of all**.

TOTAL PLANNING DOCTRINE - DON'T FORGET THE FUNDAMENTAL OF URBAN PLANNING

21. Focusing on humanity in planning can be traced back to 1995 when the **TOTAL PLANNING DOCTRINE** was developed as the **FUNDAMENTAL OF URBAN PLANNING**. The Planning Doctrine emphasizes 3 relationships which are:
 - (i) **Man and Creator**
 - (ii) **Man and Man**
 - (iii) **Man and Environment**
22. We believe that this holistic approach should focus on people as the heart of the planning system. This represents a paradigm shift to create a balance between physical development and human development in terms of spiritual and pure universal values for the sustainable progress of a civilized nation.
23. As urban planners, we should not forget this fundamental of urban planning in formulating and shaping our policies, plans and regulations.

Distinguished Guest, Ladies and Gentlemen.

URBAN ISSUES AND SOLUTIONS

24. I have always emphasized that urban planning must be able to provide solutions to the people or rakyat, as we face various urban challenges. We must consider the social impacts of our planning interventions. In 2017, we introduced the **SOCIAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT** (SIA) to analyse, monitor and manage the intended and unintended social consequences. The primary purpose is to bring about a more inclusive and sustainable urban development.

25. Through SIA and its **Social Impact Management Plan (SIMP)**, social equity and the rights of people can be upheld by engaging the affected community, understanding the local knowledge and culture, and eventually developing the right project option and mitigation measures without jeopardising the right of the local people. SIA is indeed an important tool for protecting and benefiting communities when various development projects or policy changes are proposed.

26. Meanwhile, PLANMalaysia has prepared various Planning Guidelines to showcase best planning practices for the children, elderly, youth, women, autism and people with disability, with the hope that all cities can adopt socially inclusive planning strategies for the well-being of all groups in Malaysia. DOSM projects that by 2040, Malaysia will have a nearly equal share of young (18.6%) and older (14.5%) population.
27. Our initiative on **Child Friendly City Implementation Guides** looks into children needs and protections, while **Autism Friendly Environment Initiative Guides (PRISMA)** focuses on autism needs so that every individual can thrive regardless of their circumstances and that ensure a more inclusive city for all.
28. In ensuring these communities are being taken care of planning activities, PLANMalaysia has initiated and implemented **Healthy Walkable City Initiatives**. Under **Agenda Nasional Malaysia Sihat (ANMS)**, Strategy 10, creating health supportive environment. The city has to promote an active lifestyle through the creation or upgrading of social or physical environment and healthy community empowerment. Kangar, Kulim, Jerantut and Ampang have each create and showcase their healthy city initiatives.

29. To build resilience against escalating climate-related disasters, we have also formulated the **Planning Guidelines for Disaster Resilience City in Malaysia** and **Planning Guidelines for Low Carbon Cities and Climate Change Resilient**. These guidelines have been integrated in the cities and township development by incorporating climate change into spatial and physical planning.
30. In planning for resilient cities, we need to adopt an integrated development planning approach that include climate mitigation, adaptation, and disaster risk reduction (DRR). We emphasize community resilience assessments and prioritize disaster preparedness and recovery, aligning with the **Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030**.
31. Not only that, in recognising risks and development that are prone to disaster, PLANMalaysia rolled out **the Community Based Disaster Risk Management (CBDRM) Approach** to be included in the local plans preparation. Communities that live in disaster prone area are not left out or marginalised, rather they play an important role in the development planning process. An important aspect in this Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) initiative is the need for public involvement, especially in disaster preparedness.

32. We recognise that local people possess in depth knowledge and understanding of their locality and may possess their own methods or approaches in preparing and facing the disaster. They work in hand with planners and local authorities preparing local plans in determining spatial and land use planning measures so that input and suggestions from both sides are considered and these contribute for a more effective planning implementation activities.

33. I am pleased to report that some of the local plans have included the CBDRM approach such as district of Marang, Tumpat, Maran, Bera, Temerloh, and Yan among others.

34. Furthermore, we are adopting the concept of "**Sponge City**" in line with our commitment towards innovative urban solutions. Applying this approach is crucial and important in managing urban stormwater, reducing flood risk and enhancing water reuse. By implementing this responsive measure, we can mitigate floods and water supply disruptions while addressing the challenges posed by extreme local climate phenomenon.

35. In line with this, we have come out with various studies to overcome the issue such as the **National Coastal Zone Physical Plan (RPP-2)** which outlines the approach to overcome issues related to climate change such as sea level rise, coastal erosion and the risk of tsunami disasters. The **NCVI (National Coastal Vulnerability Index)** has been developed as one of the innovative urban solutions for all coastlines in Peninsular Malaysia and the Federal Territory of Labuan as a guide in planning, management, preservation and land use development on the national coastline.

36. For the country's food security amidst climate change, we have re-apprroached the land use in the Development Plan to improve the **Self-Sufficiency Level (SSR)** as well as increase the national's food security in line with the **Land Use Planning Master Plan for National Food Production Area (KAGUMN)**. Beside setting a minimum requirement of agriculture land to boost food security, we also focus on applying agricultural technology to increase productivity. One of the innovative urban solutions we are implementing is the provision of **Plant Factory Planning Guidelines**. Plant factories which utilize controlled agriculture, are key to ensuring a stable food supply regardless of climate change.

37. The existence of Industrial Revolution 4.0 is also not separated from the challenges that need to be addressed by urban planners. Science and technology have become the basis and backbone of IR 4.0, which needs to be supported with knowledge, skills, creativity and urban planning innovation.
38. In order to realize the **National Industrial Revolution** Policy (4IR), urban planners need to be equipped with scientific knowledge and analytical skills in providing added value to urban planning services.
39. Alongside with these efforts, we are also focusing on the development of Smart Cities through **Malaysia Smart City Framework 2019-2025**. This framework paves the way for a **smarter liveable future** by using technology and big data to reach efficiency in city development and operation.
40. To accelerate the implementation and development of smart city initiatives, we are targeting **all 62 local authorities with the status of municipality and above** to become **Smart City Early Adopters** by 2025. By leveraging digitalization deeply into our urban development and management, we can ensure our cities are well equipped to meet future challenges.

Distinguished Guest, Ladies and Gentlemen.

URBAN PLANNING DIGITALISATION INITIATIVE - THE MASTERPIECE OF PLANMALAYSIA

41. We have to accept that town planning is a complex process that involves the coordination of various elements, including housing, transportation, infrastructure, green spaces, and public services. It is about envisioning the future of our communities and making decisions that will enhance the quality of life for all residents.
42. Therefore, to achieve these goals, it requires collective efforts of a wide range of stakeholders, from government officials and urban planners to community members, businesses, and environmental organizations. In essence, **effective town planning is rooted in collaboration.**
43. Classic example, we are developing national development planning big data via the platform of **Malaysia Urban Observatory (MUO)**, serving as the cornerstone to accelerate the achievement for the **Smart Nation Agenda by 2040**. The MUO platform will serve as a hub for big data analytics, seamlessly integrating and connecting various urban information holistically.

44. With the involvement of more than 30 agencies and stakeholders. We are ready to lead the big data analytic centre for urban planning. MUO is developed with a cost of RM28 million ringgit, equipped with data, an analytical platform and an intelligence monitoring centre.

45. Through MUO we have been able to carry out various data analytics such as sustainability measurement, Happiness Index, Liveability Index (iDAM) and the provision of multi-sectoral dashboards such as affordable housing dashboards, Malaysia Electric Vehicle Charging Bay Network (MEVnet) dashboard, Urban Renewal and many more.

Distinguished Guest, Ladies and Gentlemen.

FUTURE CITIES – TO BRING BACK PEOPLE TO CITIES

46. Urban Renewal holds the key to transforming our cities into dynamic, liveable, and inclusive places that attract people back to urban centres. We recognize that many of our cities, particularly Kuala Lumpur, face the risk of becoming slums if left doing nothing. Without government intervention, we will face with numerous dilapidated buildings and inhabitable strata properties in Kuala Lumpur within the next two

decades. That is why one of the main focuses of PLANMalaysia this year is to enact the **Urban Renewal Act** and table it to the Parliament for the benefit of more sustainable city development.

47. As we diligently drafting this legislation, the **Implementation Guideline of Urban Renewal (GPP PSB)** has been approved by the cabinet last year. This comprehensive guideline focuses on four (4) types of urban renewal (i.e. **urban redevelopment, urban regeneration, urban revitalisation and urban conservation**), including prioritizing the principal aspects of landlords' consent, preserving the existing community, safeguarding owners and community interests, and providing conducive temporary settlements.
48. In order to promoting sustainable urban development, **MURNInets, the Malaysian Urban Rural National Indicators Network for Sustainable Development**, since 2002, serves as tool to assess the level of sustainability for Malaysian cities. Under the 12th Malaysia Plan, our target is for 120 cities, out of 155 main cities, to achieve sustainable city status by 2025. Very encouragingly, which as of 2023, 100 cities have already met this milestone, signalling significant progress toward our cities goal to reach SDGs

targets by 2030. To complement the agenda of sustainable city development, I am proud to share that we have established the **urban growth boundary** for 288 cities and settlements in Malaysia, to **curb urban sprawl** and enhance effective urban governance.

WAY FORWARD - PERFECTION IN CITY DEVELOPMENT

49. Moving forward, **Sustainability and Liveability of the People** shall be given priority to reach sustainable and inclusive urban development. Planning '**by people for the people**' is a development fundamental that emphasize the importance of community engagement and participation in urban planning process. I believe that there is no better way to decide on the best course of action than to listen to our communities in urban and rural development exercises. Now and certainly in the future, the **micro planning**, as the fourth tier of urban planning hierarchy through **community-based planning** become the approach in developing Malaysian cities.

50. In ensuring a successful implementation of micro planning, PLANMalaysia has rolled out several special action plan, **namely Urban Special Action Plan (PTKB), Rural Special Action Plan (PTKLB) and Community Special Action Plan (PTKK)**.

51. Among the objectives of these plans are to solve current issues that need fast action and to fulfil the needs of the community during the implementation plan. In fact, any project has to be initiated by community/ local council or NGOs as a pre-requisite for the project to be done. This is in line with the concept of planning for people and ‘people centric planning’.

52. As I mentioned earlier, our upcoming **5th National Physical Plan (NPP5)** and **the 3rd National Urbanisation Policy (NUP3)** will further strengthen the people and community aspects by stressing on the human scale planning and community building for our future cities as visualised in the Malaysia MADANI’s aspiration.

53. This global and national scenario provides an overview and explains that urban planning is closely related to the happening phenomenon that requires us to be ready to accept change and be able to act quickly, thoroughly and agilely to drive physical planning and national development.

54. In order to face this changing situation, some new responsibilities need to be borned to ensure that the field of urban planning remains relevant and significant in planning and managing sustainable land use development.

Ladies and Gentlemen.

WAY FORWARD: PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT
THROUGH COLLABORATION AND PARTNERSHIP

55. I would like to emphasize that "**town planning is about facilitation**". Every plan requires our imagination to explore and then implement small actions with a big impact. PLANMalaysia will continue to commit to collaborative programs and partnerships with universities, international institutions, industrial players, NGOs, as well as government agencies at the federal, state and local levels.

FUTURE-PROOF DEVELOPMENT BY URBAN PLANNERS

56. In preparation to become a town planner, we need to always be alert and anticipate to the current situation and issues either at the national and global level and be equipped with a **GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE**, always read, seek knowledge, and always be prepared for any new possibilities including new ideas which can be thrown (voice out). Bear in mind, "**COMPETITION MAKES US FASTER, COLLABORATION MAKES US BETTER**". This mindset will accelerate the idea of "**THINK GLOBAL ACT LOCAL**", as highlighted by YBhg. Dato' Seri Paduka TPr Maimunah Mohd Shariff in her recent talk show on urbanization.

57. In order to produce quality human capital, especially for the students of Urban Planning, I suggest that the momentum of enrichment of knowledge (core knowledge and peripheral knowledge) be strengthened to include a **variety of knowledge in the field of law, macro and micro economics, international trade and investment, and contemporary global development agenda initiatives**.

58. My advice to all students, equip yourself with skills in various 'brains' in line with the **digital and artificial intelligence (AI)** era, in addition to being an active student in sports and other appropriate co-curricular activities in order to be able to compete with other university graduates. We have no choice but to be fully aware of what is digital literacy and AI literacy. It will be a huge loss for us if **WE FAIL TO MAKE OPTIMAL USE OF IT.**

CLOSING - RECIPE OF MAKING CITIES FOR ALL

59. Finally, I want to leave the audience with the recipe in crafting and transforming our cities for a better urban future, that is by embedding '**the humanity**' aspect as one of the ingredients in all city development thoughts and practices. As a chef who carefully selects the finest ingredients to create a culinary masterpiece, so too must we infuse our cities with the essence of humanity. Let's together pledge to cultivate a future where our cities are not just built, but nurtured with love, care and compassion, ensuring "**CITIES FOR ALL, and LEAVING NO ONE BEHIND**".

**Sekian, Wabillahitaufik Walhidayah, Wassalamualaikum
Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh.**

Disediakan oleh:

Bahagian Korporat

20th June 2024