



UNIVERSITI PUTRA MALAYSIA

COMPARING SOFT-SCAPE QUALITY STANDARD BETWEEN MALAYSIA AND DEVELOPED COUNTRIES

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COMPARING SOFT-SCAPE QUALITY STANDARD BETWEEN MALAYSIA AND DEVELOPED COUNTRIES

By

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COMPARING SOFT-SCAPE QUALITY STANDARD BETWEEN

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The Malaysia government's vision towards a "Garden Nation" in year 2005,

followed by 'The Most Beautiful Garden Nation' by the year 2020 has boosted

rapidly the landscape development throughout the country. However, as reported by

the Malaysia Construction Industry Development Board (CIDB, 2000), these

massive and hasty developments have led to a devastating compromise in quality.

This issue is critical in landscape development, as currently, there is no specific

quality standard to monitor and control the quality of soft-scape materials and

works. Landscape projects are it is a quite unique form of construction that blend the

inert materials with the living plants, or commonly known as the hard-scape and the

soft-scape, within the environment. Based on the building industry practice, the

quality of the hard-scape is specific and codified. For soft-scape, however, there is a

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wide range of subjectivity with regard to the quality of the soft-scape materials and works. Therefore, there is a need to evaluate the quality standard of soft-scape as it is an important document in specifying the quality aspect of the landscape development in Malaysia.

This research used a mixed-method approach. It adopted a constant comparative method to explore the similarities and differences between the quality standard of soft-scape practices in Malaysia and those in the USA and UK. Tender documents and the soft-scape specifications together with data from the interviews with local professional landscape personnel were the two main important data sources to identified the issues and problems related to the quality standard of soft-scape in this country. It also verifies the strength and weaknesses of the present soft-scape practices in Malaysia. Site observations at the nurseries and at the landscape construction site on the other hand helped to validate the written documents. These findings identified the insufficient standard to monitor and control the quality of soft-scape materials and works in this country. At the end of the research, recommendations were provided for improving the quality standard of soft-scape materials and works that represent the overall landscape development towards sustainability in Malaysia.



Abstrak tesis yang dikemukakan kepada Senat Universiti Putra Malaysia sebagai memenuhi keperluan untuk Ijazah Master Sains

PERBANDINGAN PIAWAIAN KUALITI LANDSKAP LEMBUT DI

ANTARA MALAYSIA DAN NEGARA MEMBANGUN

Oleh

ROZIYA BINTI IBRAHIM

Oktober 2009

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Visi kerajaan Malaysia ke arah mencapai "Negara Taman" pada tahun 2005 di ikuti

"Negara Taman Terindah" menjelang tahun 2020 telah menggalakkan pembangunan

landskap di seluruh Negara. Walaubagaimanapun, Construction Industry

Development Board (CIDB, 2000) melaporkan bahawa pembangunan yang di alami

dalam tempoh yang singkat telah menyebabkan kurang penekanan diberikan

terhadap aspek kualiti. Isu ini amat kritikal di dalam pembangunan landskap, kerana

sehingga kini tiada piawaian kualiti yang spesifik untuk memantau dan mengawal

kuality bahan dan landskap lembut. Pembinaan projek landskap adalah unik kerana

ianya melibatkan penyatuan bahan kejur dengan tumbuh-tumbuhan, ataupun lebih

dikenali sebagai landskap kejur dan landskap lembut di dalam ruang persekitaran.

Berbeza dengan ke arah pembinaan yang mana kualiti bahan binaan yang digunakan

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lebih spesifik dan berkod, kualiti bahan dan kerja landskap lembut adalah subjektif. Berdasarkan pengalaman penyelidik sebagai arkitek landskap, kualiti bahan dan kerja-kerja landskap di Malaysia adalah tidak konsisten. Oleh yang demikian, adalah perlu untuk memperbaiki piawaian kualiti bagi landskap lembut kerana ia merupakan dokumen penting di dalam menekankan aspek kualiti pembangunan landskap di Malaysia.

Kajian ini menggunakan pendekatan "mixed-method". Kaedah perbandingan "constant comparative" digunakan bagi mencari persamaan dan perbezaan amalan landskap lembut di antara Malaysia dengan negara membangun khasnya USA dan UK. Dokumen tender dan spesifikasi landskap lembut serta hasil temuramah dengan pakar landskap tempatan merupakan dua sumber data utama yang penting dalam mengenalpasti isu dan masalah berkaitan piawaian kualiti landskap lembut. Ia juga menjelaskan kelebihan dan kekurangan di dalam amalan landskap lembut di Malaysia ketika ini. Pemerhatian di tapak semaian dan tapak pembinaan pula membantu mengukuhkan lagi hasil kajian dokumen. Kesemua analisis di atas membantu mengenalpasti kekurangan piawaian kualiti bagi mengawal kualiti bahan dan kerja landskap lembut di negara ini. Di akhir kajian, cadangan diberikan untuk memperbaiki kualiti bahan dan kerja landskap yang dapat digunakan di dalam pembangunan landskap ke arah pembangunan mapan di Malaysia.



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I certify that an examination Committee has met on 7 October 2009 to conduct the final examination of Roziya binti Ibrahim on her Master of Science thesis entitled "Comparing the Quality Standard of Soft-scape between Malaysia and Developed Countries" in accordance with Universiti Pertanian Malaysia (Higher Degree) Act 1980 and Universiti Pertanian Malaysia (Higher Degree) Regulations 1981. The Committee recommends that the student be awarded the degree of Master Science.

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DECLARATION

I hereby declare that the thesis is my original work except for quotations and citations that have been duly acknowledged. I also declare that it has not been previously, and is not concurrently, submitted for any other degrees at Universiti Putra Malaysia or at any other institutions.

ROZIYA BINTI IBRAHIM

Date: 11 February 2010



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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

AESC American Engineering Standards Committee

AIA American Institute of Architects

ANLA American Nursery and Landscape Association

ANS American national Standard

ANSI American National Standard Institute

ASA American Standard Association

ASC ANCI-accredited Standards Committee

ASCE American Society of Civil Engineers

ASLA American Society of Landscape Architects

BALI British Association of Landscape Industries

BESA British Engineering Standards Association

BS British Standard

BSI British Standard Institute

BSR Board of Standard Review

CIDB Construction Industry Development Board

CSC Construction Specifications Canada

CSI Construction Specification Institute

DBKL Kuala Lumpur City Hall

DLN National Landscape Policy

ESC Engineering Standards Committee

ILAM Institute of Landscape Architects Malaysia

ISC Industry Standards Committee

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ISO International Organization for Standardization

JLN National Landscape Department

KLCC Kuala Lumpur City Centre

KLIA Kuala Lumpur International Airport

LI Landscape Institute

MOSTI Minister of Science Technology and Innovation

MS Malaysian Standard

MSAC Malaysian Standards and Accreditation Council

MyNSC National Standards Committee

NBS National Building Specifications

NISIR National Institute for Scientific and Industrial Research

NPS National Park Service

NRC National Research Council

NSS National Standards Strategy

PJC Putrajaya Corporation

PWD Public Work Department

SDO Standards Developing Organization

SILARA Malaysia Landscape Industry Association

SIRIM Standard and Industrial Research Institute of Malaysia

SWO Standard Writing Committee

TC Technical Committee

TCIA Tree Care Industry Association

WG Working Group

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CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 An Overview to Landscape Development in Malaysia

The dawn of landscape development in Malaysia started in the early 1980s, during the leadership of the former Prime Minister's, Tun Dr. Mahathir Mohamad. His Vision 2020, outlined several principles; one of it was to enhance the quality of living through sustainable development (Abdullah, 2003). Tun Dr. Mahathir Mohamad brought Malaysia to an era of modernization in which during this period the physical landscape of the country transformed towards becoming a garden nation.

Since then, the landscape development in Malaysia has been experiencing a major change with the emphasis on landscaping the nation as inspired by Tun Dr. Mahathir Mohamad's desire to balance the economic, social and environmental development in this country (Sreetheran et al., 2006). Following this aspiration, in 1981, the landscape unit was established within the Department of Town and Country Planning to monitor the landscape development. It was on 24 September of the same year that the "Institut Landskap Arkitek Malaysia" or ILAM was formed to support and promote the profession of landscape architect and enhance the quality of landscape development in Malaysia (ILAM 2008). The government's effort continued with the development of the Federal Territory (Planning) Act 1982 (Act 267) which stipulated certain rules and



regulations related to tree planting and conservations in 1982 followed by other related acts to guide the landscape development in Malaysia.

Later in 1996, the effort further continued by the establishment of the National Landscape Department under the purview of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government (Sreetheran et al., 2006). The needs for the development of this department was described in the policy paper "Landscaping the Nation" by Tun Dr. Mahathir Mohamad (JLN, 1998, as cited in Osman, 2005, p. 60). The department acts as the advisor in the landscape planning, development and management at the national level (Ismail, 1997). Furthermore, the government provided a specific budget for the landscape development in Malaysia. Osman (2005) reported that an amount of Malaysian Ringgit Two Hundred Million (RM 200 million) in the 7th Malaysian Plan (1996-2000) was granted to The National Landscape Department (JLN). From this amount RM 121.5 million was used for the implemention of the national landscape development, public park development and landscape research and extension work.

The Malaysian government introduced the concept of 'Garden Nation', in 1997, towards achieving sustainable development (Ismail, 1997; Osman, 2005). This concept covered the whole nation by which the landscape needed to be a major component, or a significant part in the overall development of the country (Osman, 2005). This vision has boosted the landscape development rapidly throughout the country which could be seen in the new federal administrative capital Putrajaya, the



Multimedia Super Corridor (MSC) Cyberjaya and the Petronas Twin Tower (Abdullah, 2003).

The first National Landscape Conference about garden nation was held in 1997. Dato Hj. Ismail bin Ngah, the Director General of National Landscape Department stressed a proper planning and implementations as well as impressive strategies which were vital in order to achieve a garden nation status. Therefore, the Malaysian government outlined several strategies in fulfilling its aspiration towards achieving the "Garden Nation", amongst others was the nationwide tree planting campaign. The aim of the campaign was to enhance the landscape quality in making Malaysia a "Garden Nation" by 2005 (Sreetheran et al., 2006). This campaign received good support from both public and private sectors. Harian Metro (2008) reported that the Mayor of Kuala Lumpur City Hall, Datuk Ab Hakim Borhan announced the allocation of RM 5 million for tree planting project along the main roads of Kuala Lumpur towards a "Sustainable Tropical City" by 2020 which was in line with the nation's vision.

Another strategy was to legislate for the national landscape policy to ensure a sustainable and comprehensive physical and landscape development in the country. The National Landscape Department (JLN) reported that the National Landscape Policy (DLN) was first drafted in 2002 and is still being revised and waiting for the approval of the Malaysian government (as cited in Osman, 2005). This proposed DLN mooted by Dato Seri Najib Tun Razak (2006) will guide the government's vision towards 'The Most Beautiful Garden Nation' by 2020. The policy would help



not only in achieving a sustainable landscape development but also high quality living environment with a strong Malaysian identity.

After the year 2005, JLN envisaged that landscape development would place more emphasis on the management of and sustaining landscape quality in Malaysia Garden Nation to fulfill the national goal of becoming a developed nation set out in Vision 2020. To implement this development, in 2006, the former Minister of Housing and Local Government reported that the Malaysian government approved the allocation of about Malaysia Ringgit Three Hundred and Sixty One Million (RM 361 Millions) in the 9th Malaysian Plan (2006-2010) for the enhancement of the national landscape quality (Ong, 2006). The budget increment again was an evidence of a strong commitment from the government towards landscape development in the country.

1.2 The Evolution of Soft-scape Specification in Malaysia

Over the last 30 years, the landscape development in Malaysia has grown quite significantly. As landscape development progresses in the country, it has created high demand in the landscape industry such as for landscape construction contracts and nursery productions in Malaysia. The landscape industry players are becoming more aware of the importance of quality standard to regulate the landscape development quality especially the soft-scape.



In the early 1980s, the landscape development project in this country mainly focused on infrastructures and public facilities. Most of the early projects were managed by the Public Work Department. To encourage the standardization and improvement of the construction materials and techniques, the PWD was placed under the Ministry of Public Work in 1983. Some of the projects done by the PWD in 1980s were the North South Highway and the Penang Bridge.

The soft-scape specification used in these projects mainly covered the guideline for streets planting. The first specification developed by the PWD in 1988, is KT 109/89, Guidelines for Landscaping Urban Road, by Norliah Saidin. This specification covers the streets planting considering the road safety which was used by the road authorities in landscape works for new road reserves (JKR, 1997). Later in 1997, this specification was upgraded to Nota Teknik (Jalan) 19/97 with the improvement in its content. The development of this specification refers to the following landscape books and guidelines:

- Jabatan perhutanan, Kementerian perusahaan Utama Semenanjung Malaysia.
 (1983). Pokok-pokok untuk Menghias Bandar Kawasan perumahan dan Lebuhraya.
- ii. Jabatan Perancangan Bandar dan Desa Semenanjung Malaysia. (July, 1995).Garis Panduan Landskap Negara. Kementerian Perumahan dan Kerajaan Tempatan.
- iii. Parks and Recreation Department, Republic of Singapore Ministry of National Development (1981). *A Guide to Tree Planting*.

