

## EDITORIAL PREFACE

### SUSTAINABILITY IN REFERENCE AND RESPONSE TO COVID-19 PANDEMIC

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This year we are been surprised by the spread of novel coronavirus name COVID-19. Due to the virus's active infectious nature, the virus that had started in Wuhan, China has now spread all over the world. World Health Organization or WHO declares that COVID -19 is a pandemic and to date, almost 9.6 million people have been infected and almost 500,000 people have perished. Almost no countries have been spared and the calamity has been equated with Spanish Flu Pandemic from 1918 – 1920.

With COVID-19 spread rapidly, many countries had issued a lockdown order in which force people to stay indoors, practice social distancing, and maintain a high level of personal hygiene. The situation has caused businesses and economies to stand still and many countries started to look at the short- and long-term measures to reignite the economy, reduce economic retraction, and to avoid recession. In contrast, during the lockdown, the nature and wellbeing of the environment thrive. Our rivers are getting cleaner so does the air quality due to reduce numbers of factory operated and vehicles on the roads. The situation shows the two-prong effects if people's activities are reduced at the extreme. Nevertheless, as countries slowly lifting the lockdown measures and people return to normalcy, it is very important to observe and be creative on how to ensure that both nature and economic activities can thrive sustainably.

ALAM CIPTA believes that the planning and design filed to have very important roles to play in the Post COVID 19. Many research questions shall be asked to address the Post COVID 19 issue. For example, how to ensure that parks and open spaces usages in the future? How to create social distancing? Economic and social values of the parks? Are the parks and open space will be merely for wildlife? Another interesting question will be about our housing planning and design, in which, how to design a housing unit when people are forced to stay indoor? Can people stay in a house for a long time without any contact with nature and other people? As schools were forced to close, our kids are forced to switch to online learning but how long do our kids can face the computer screen without being bored and fatigue. This is a human-computer interface issue that very much related to product and industrial design.

All the issue and problems that have been highlighted is very important for sustainability. Therefore, there is a need to take sustainable development seriously and Sustainable Development Goal (2015) or SDG by the United Nations is becoming more important than ever. Strategies and action plans must be carefully studied, and appropriate research must be done. Concerning planning and design, SDG agendas in relation to good health and wellbeing, clean water and sanitation,) industry, innovation and infrastructure, sustainable cities and communities, climate action, life below water, and life on land must be further explored. There are indeed very broad and expand the three basic tenets of sustainability which are environment, community, and people.

Seven articles have been published in this issue and even though none of them address COVID 19 Pandemic, they are related to SDG. Four articles relate directly to sustainable cities and the community's tenet as well as life on land. The article discusses the need to have sustainable planting design and access to open spaces as well as awareness of sustainability via sketching activities. Another two articles are related to climate action tenet as the articles discuss microclimate and building design. Meanwhile, one article relates to responsible consumption and production tenet when it discusses the decision-making process for sustainable product design.

As we see it, SDG and planning and design research and practice cannot be separated as their combination will provide a strong foundation for sustainability. SDG is a powerful tool and ALAM CIPTA intent to further explore and expand its usefulness to make our world a better place to live. ALAM CIPTA accepts articles that concern with architecture, art, and design related to the process, methods, techniques, practices, and theories in expanding our understanding to ensure sustainability. All articles in this issue provide very relevant knowledge about how we can plan and design our environment, built environment, and products better. On behalf of the editors, I would like to thank all the authors and reviewers who had work very hard. Your contribution is very valuable as it helps the advancement and dissemination of knowledge to "cipta" [create] a better world. We encourage your feedback at [alamciptaeditor@upm.edu.my](mailto:alamciptaeditor@upm.edu.my) and thank you for your continuous support of ALAM CIPTA.