

## EDITORIAL PREFACE

### SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL: REFOCUS DESIGNERS ENERGY TOWARDS 2030 TARGET

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In 2015, Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) was committed by all nations through United Nations General Assembly. SDG was built upon the success of Millennium Development Goals (MDG) that emphasize on the issues, among other, climate change, innovation and peace and justice. SDG has 17 goals, and they are illustrated by very famous infographic by United Nations (2015). If we can trace back, SDG or MDG is based on classic seminal work of 1987 *Our Common Future* or *Brundtland Report* by the United Nations World Commission on Environment and Development.

The goals are said could be accomplished by the cooperation of governments, businesses communities, higher education's entities, and local Non-Government Organisations meaning it success require commitment by all segments of society. The success of SDG would be measured and reviewed by each country periodically and from there, recommendations, changes and further commitments will be suggested. As we are in the 5th anniversary of SDG, it is worth to ask how research and practise in design and built environment areas could further enhance and contribute to the success of SDG in 2030.

Designers and built environment professionals such as planners, architects and landscape architects have major roles to play ensuring the success of SDG because we are responsible to the items and spaces used by the people. As it been said that the environment will shape the behaviour of the people and vis versa, therefore, designers are should be aware of the impact of the items and spaces to the environment, economy and people well-being hence supporting the success of SDG. Therefore, it is wise to revisit roles of designers and built environment professionals for SDG at every aspect namely the policy, planning, design and post implementation or occupancy period.

It is argued that designers and built environment professionals need to start actively involved in formulating a public policy to ensure good planning and design for the betterment of society and economic well-being. In addition, designers also need to understand how the design policy could impact the environmental quality. We may say that politicians, public policy makers and scientists may know better in formulating the policy but there is a need for designer to provide strong factual design inputs, so the policy formulated are holistic and workable from the design perspective. So, the impacts will not only functional but also



Figure 1. Sustainable Development Goals by United Nations (2015)

spiritual and meaningful. Once the policy is established, a good planning very much needed and it is especially important for architects, landscape architects and planners. Every line, square and circle on the planning plan have huge impacts to the water quality, energy consumption, justice and climate change, gender equality, sustainable cities, and communities. It will be challenging to ensure the plans take into consideration all the SDG items rather than often one-sided consideration of the economy, but this is where professionalism of designers will play huge roles. To ensure professionalism is at high levels, at this policy and planning level, the civil society groups should come forwards to voice their concerns and developers or clients need to play their roles for community development. Public participatory process is very much needed at this point as it will enhance inclusivity and promote democratization of design process.

At the design level, designers must realize that their works will have an effect at local level but if not properly thought of, the effect will be big and may trigger regional and maybe national and international issues. For example, the position of the spaces designed will shape the harmonious relationship among community. The plants selected for the gardens may alter or enhance the local ecosystem. The slope we cut may ease tension for land erosion or trigger landslides and the building facades we designed may enhance or change local identity which may good or bad for the development of culture. In addition, the industrial products may function well to accommodate users' needs, ease labour use and be more sensitive with the application of vulnerable materials. Designers also need to work closely with contractors and manufactures so they know that the manufacturing and operation processes are clean, safe, accommodative so we can have responsible consumption and production. At the design stage also, designers must be aware that people satisfaction, mood, preferences will be developed, and choices be made due to fact that the design outputs are often tangible and can be directly seen. The good design outputs require need designers with out of the box thinking whose creativity, innovation and design thinking is at the core of their mind.

Designers and built environment professionals have major roles to play to ensure SDG is a success story. While designers are good at technical knowledge on how to do thing, it is imperative for designers to also start involving in community development project. A project that can enhance and protect local knowledge for the betterment of the society at the local and grassroot level. It is

very encouraging to observe that more and more design professionals involve in community works that touch issues about food security, youth upskilling, elderly comfort, and alleviation of poverty. The designers, who claims to have holistic way of seeing and doing things when design, must come forward and provide leadership needed by the community. Designers can no longer seat on their comfort of studio talking about idealism, concept, form, and shape; we must move out and lead.

Even though, much emphasis has been given to designers and built environment professionals, design researcher also has big roles to play. Design researchers must ask difficult questions and working hard to answer the questions. Your contribution in expanding the knowledge shall be cherished by designers who are practise because they are now can used the knowledge for the society. In addition, design researchers shall also move away from their comfort labs to start mingling with society to further understanding their issues and problems thus providing research solutions that are practical and pragmatic without ignoring the theoretical basis of the phenomenon understudy. I believe, if all design researchers, designers, architects, landscape architects and planners really understand the underpinning philosophy of SDG, all of us will waste no time contributing in many ways within our expertise for future generations well-being.

Nine articles have been published in this issue and as we see it, all of them directly or indirectly relate to SDG. We must admit that, 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.