

VERITAS e-news is a monthly on-line publication of features, news and events at VERITAS, a premier architecture and design firm based in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. VERITAS e-news has a subscriber base of 3000 readers.



In this month's e-news, we are delighted to feature an in-depth expose of some of our Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiatives which have recently been receiving a lot of attention.

We shall also feature our recent 2nd quarter staff meeting for 2013, the VSSC Explorace and other interesting happenings here at VERITAS.

The VERITAS Fund for Excellence (VFE)

VFE The VERITAS Fund for Excellence or VFE is the focus of our CSR programme. This VFE fund was founded in 2004 by the VERITAS Design Group to further our core values of Integrity, Design, Environment, Audacity and Service.

It arose from a vision to encourage more design students and educators to excel in their respective fields and eventually contribute further toward nation building as designers and educators.

- The VFE's three focus areas are:
Design: Improving the quality of our built environment
Education: Scholarships, travel study grants, student interactions
Environment: Tree planting, recycling initiatives/energy conservation

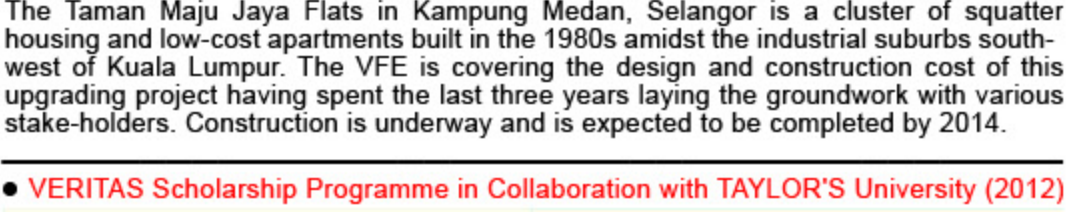
Over the years, VERITAS' commitment towards CSR thru the VFE has continued to expand, improve and refine. Today, the VFE incorporates not only operational responsibilities but also shared value creation. Our core businesses are tied to a unifying objective and pledge; to ensure business sustainability without compromising the rights and needs of future generations. Some of the VFE events over the years are as follows:

101.8 EAST (2012 - Current)



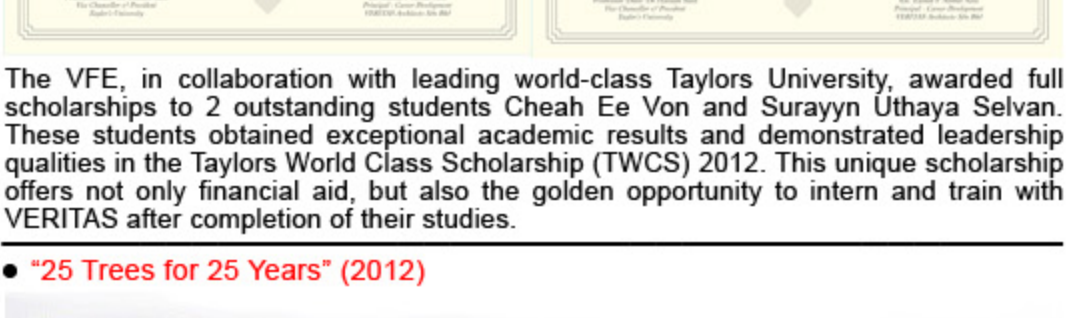
The 101.8 East is an observatory deck situated at the Tanjung Tuan Lighthouse in Malacca. It is designed for bird-watchers viewing the migration of raptors. This observatory deck overlooks the Straits of Malacca is a Pro-Bono assignment for the Malaysian Nature Society. This project is waiting for a corporate sponsor to enable it to move forward.

Refurbishment of Kg Medan Flat (2011 - 2014)



The Taman Maju Jaya Flats in Kampung Medan, Selangor is a cluster of squatter housing and low-cost apartments built in the 1980s amidst the industrial suburbs south-west of Kuala Lumpur. The VFE is covering the design and construction cost of this upgrading project having spent the last three years laying the groundwork with various stakeholders. Construction is underway and is expected to be completed by 2014.

VERITAS Scholarship Programme in Collaboration with TAYLOR'S University (2012)



The VFE, in collaboration with leading world-class Taylor's University, awarded full scholarships to 2 outstanding students Cheah Ee Von and Surayyn Uthaya Selvan. These students obtained exceptional academic results and demonstrated leadership qualities in the Taylors World Class Scholarship (TWCS) 2012. This unique scholarship offers not only financial aid, but also the golden opportunity to intern and train with VERITAS after completion of their studies.

"25 Trees for 25 Years" (2012)



The VFE conducted a tree planting programme in conjunction with VERITAS' 25th anniversary celebrations - '25 trees for 25 years'. On 8th of September 2012 staff of VERITAS planted 25 trees in Metropolitan Park, Kuala Lumpur while DBKL supported the move by planting another 25 trees. VERITAS' Clients had earlier pledged RM1,000 for each of the 25 trees and the VFE matched that RM 25,000 with an equal amount to raise a total sum of RM 50,000, which went towards the Malaysian Nature Society and the Animal Shelter Home.

Port Dickson Beach Clean Up (2010)



On 11th December 2010, a group of 100 over VERITASians and their children descended on Casa Rachado beach in Port Dickson for a beach cleaning activity. We were assisted by Ms Stephanie and Ms Angel from the Malaysian Nature Society. We started work at 10:30 am and within an hour, 1.5 km of beach was scoured and 16 large bags were filled with debris. Fine weather made the activity fun for everyone including the little ones. To add a challenge to the event, teams competed with each other for how much rubbish was collected!

Assembly of Landscape Architecture Students Malaysia (2009)



The VFE was also the main sponsor for the Assembly of Landscape Architecture Students Malaysia (ALAM) 2009. This event was organized by the School of Landscape Architecture of Universiti Institut Teknologi Mara (UiTM). The sponsorship sum of RM 12,000 was channeled to learning activities which improve the creativity and skill of the students in the field of landscape design in Malaysia. This 3-day event was held between 7th till the 10th of December at the UiTM Campus in Perak and gathered hundreds of landscape students from other major universities in Malaysia.

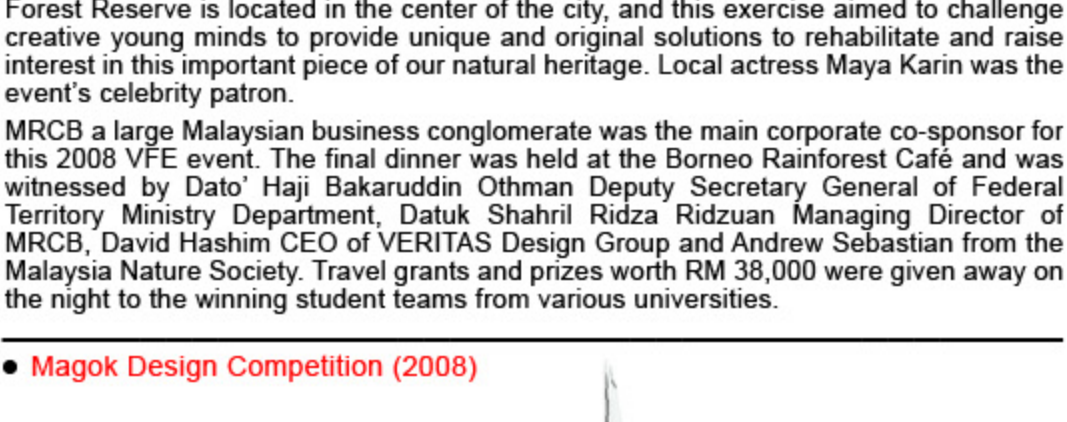
VFE 100 Trees (2009)



In December 2009 the VFE conducted a tree adoption/planting programme in conjunction with Yayasan Warisan Alam (YAWA) as well as the Rumah Pengasih Malaysia (Drug Rehabilitation Center). The idea derived from VERITAS' environmental sustainability outlook for the year as well as the 'National Tree Planting Campaign' to plant 20,000,000 trees by the year 2020.

On Sunday 13th December 2009, the event kicked-off with an officiation and ground breaking ceremony with Tan Sri Salleh Md Nor of the Malaysian Nature Society (MNS), David Hashim CEO of VERITAS Design Group, Tn. Mohd. Yunus Pathi of Rumah Pengasih Malaysia, Malaysian actress Aishah Sinclair and Miss Malaysia 2007 Deborah Henry. VERITAS staff participated in the planting of 200 trees of varying fruit and rainforest species within the Rumah Pengasih grounds. The tree planting was followed by workshops on sustainable 'green' home practices for adults and kids.

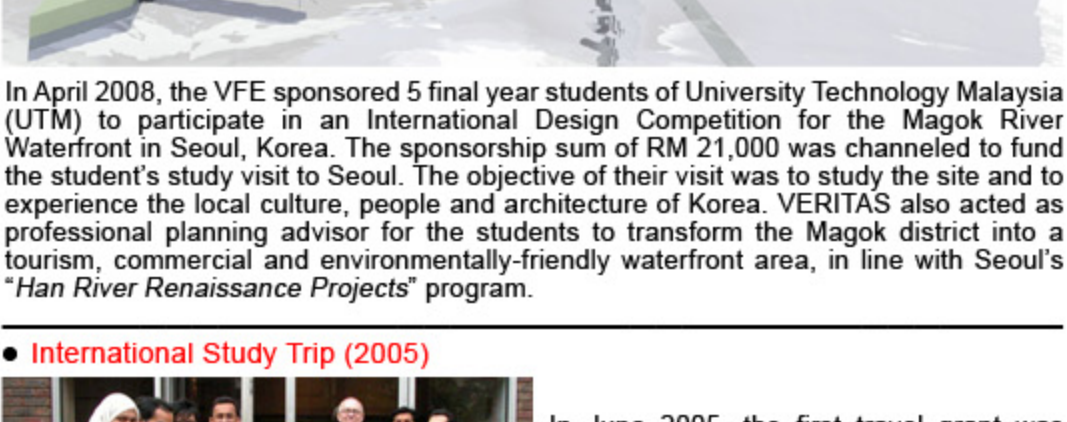
Bukit Nanas Forest Reserve Design Competition (2008)



In January 2008, the VFE organized an ideas competition open to students of design aimed at preserving the Bukit Nanas Forest Reserve in Kuala Lumpur and to create awareness of its importance as a green lung and bio-shelter for Kuala Lumpur. The Forest Reserve is located in the center of the city, and this exercise aimed to challenge creative young minds to provide unique and original solutions to rehabilitate and raise interest in this important piece of our natural heritage. Local actress Maya Karin is the event's celebrity patron.

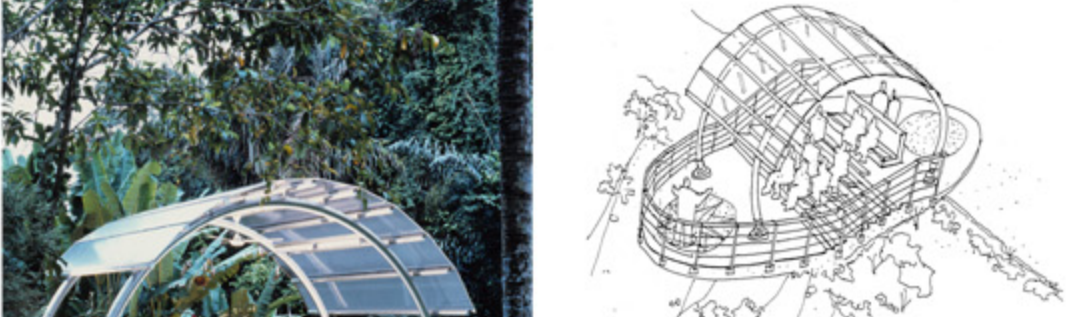
MRCB a large Malaysian business conglomerate was the main corporate co-sponsor for this 2008 VFE event. The final dinner was held at the Borneo Rainforest Café and was witnessed by Dato' Haji Bakaruddin Othman Deputy Secretary General of Federal Territory Ministry Department, Datuk Shahril Ridza Ridzuan Managing Director of MRCB, David Hashim CEO of VERITAS Design Group and Andrew Sebastian from the Malaysia Nature Society. Travel grants and prizes worth RM 38,000 were given away on the night to the winning student teams from various universities.

Magok Design Competition (2008)



In April 2008, the VFE sponsored 5 final year students of University Technology Malaysia (UTM) to participate in an International Design Competition for the Magok River Waterfront in Seoul, Korea. The sponsorship sum of RM 21,000 was channeled to fund the student's study visit to Seoul. The objective of their visit was to study the site and to experience the local culture, people and architecture of Korea. VERITAS also acted as professional planning advisor for the students to transform the Magok district into a tourism, commercial and environmentally-friendly waterfront area, in line with Seoul's 'Han River Renaissance Projects' program.

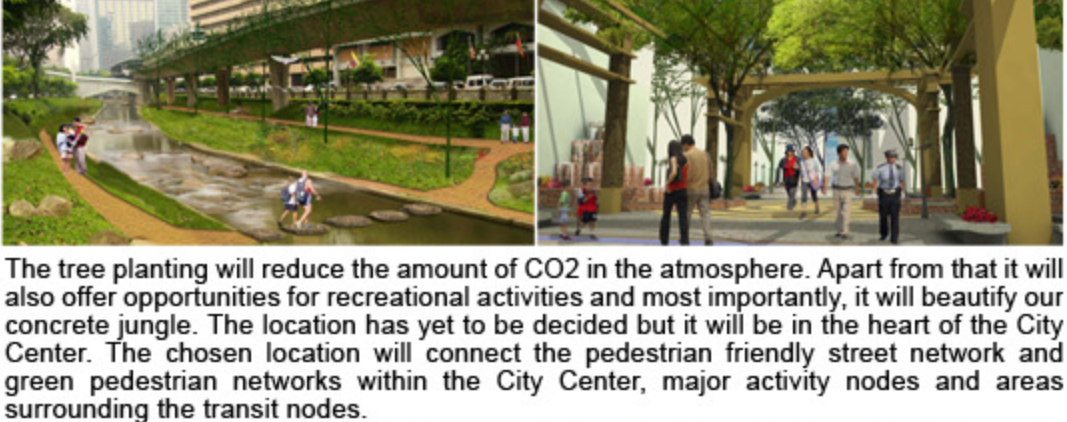
International Study Trip (2005)



In June 2005, the first travel grant was made from the VFE to UiTM architecture students. The VFE fully sponsored Jeffrey Noorman from UiTM for a 3-week study visit to Germany in preparation for his final year.

VFE also contributed to the cost of 18 other 4th year students and environmental artists for various study trips around the world.

Malaysian Nature Society Pavilion - Federal Hill, Kuala Lumpur (2004)



The Outdoor Classroom Pavilion at the Federal Hill is VFE's contribution to the Malaysian Nature Society, in support of their continuing efforts to conserve nature and educate the public about our natural heritage.

The pavilion is used as a platform to brief visitors before they embark on the Natural Heritage Trail in Federal Hill.

VFE 2013

This year's VFE Project is on "Adopt A Park". This program is a contribution from VERITAS to the city of Kuala Lumpur which aims to improve pedestrian connectivity and landscape in the City Center.

The tree planting will reduce the amount of CO2 in the atmosphere. Apart from that it will also offer opportunities for recreational activities and most importantly, it will beautify our concrete jungle. The location has yet to be decided but it will be in the heart of the City Center. The chosen location will connect the pedestrian friendly street network and green pedestrian networks within the City Center, major activity nodes and areas surrounding the transit nodes.

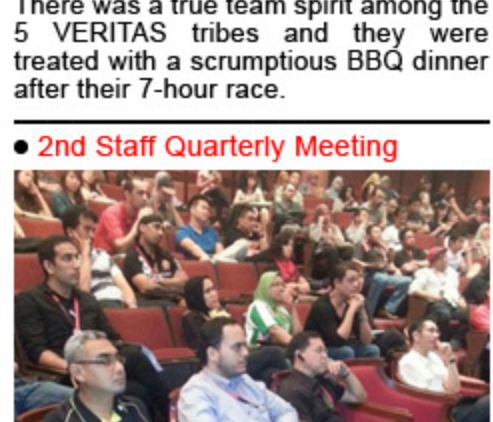
Every VERITASian will be a part of this program. Hopefully it will provide an interesting walking experience in the city!!

HAPPENINGS



VSSC Explorace

The VERITAS Social and Sports Club (VSSC) Explorace was successfully held on Saturday, 6 April 2013. A total of 8 teams participated in the race to compete for their respective tribes' points. Each team of 5-6 had to complete a series of mentally and physically challenging tasks.



Team Environment which completed all challenges and arrived at the finishing line collected the most points. There was a true team spirit among the 5 VERITAS tribes and they were treated with a scrumptious BBQ dinner after their 7-hour race.

2nd Staff Quarterly Meeting



VERITAS held its 2nd Quarterly Meeting for 2013 on 20th April, at the Menara Lembaga Getah Asli Auditorium. The meeting kick-started with an introduction and warm welcome to all new staff who recently joined the VERITAS family. Our group president David M Hashim gave a rousing speech on our 'Marketing & Corporate Communications Initiatives'. He further updated us on VERITAS' international projects. Principals from their respective divisions presented their company's plans for the 2nd quarter of this year.

Sexytary Week Luncheon



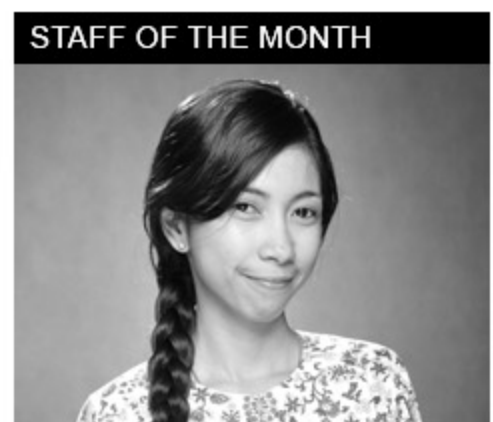
In conjunction with secretary's week, the secretaries and the support administration team shut down their PC's on 26th April 2013 and headed towards Grappa Restaurant at Avenue K. The management of VAKL took the opportunity to treat them all to a fine Italian meal.

INTER-VERITASians Futsal Tournament

Date: 11.04.2013 Every Thursday
 Venue: LGM Futsal Court



STAFF OF THE MONTH



Our staff of the month is Puteri. She is commonly known as "Puti" among staff and friends and is our VFE Champion for 2013!!! She was born on 5th September 1982 and is married to Suhaili Basri a video editor with Greg's Video in Bangsar. She has been working with VERITAS Architects Kuala Lumpur since October 2009 as a project architect.

Komathi Ramakrishna (KR) gets in-depth info about Puteri Shahfura (PS)

KR: Where did you graduate from and in what year?
 PS: I received my architectural degree from UiTM in the year 2009

KR: Where do you live?
 PS: Ampang...oh....Ampang!



KR: Congratulations on your new post as the President of the VFE. Tell me a little about your plan for 2013?
 PS: shhhh..... i'm trying to be low profile here... ha ha ha... I just got my battalion ready for war, and its working out very well, we gonna conquer the street very soon.... "Adopt A Park". It's a social contribution from us to the city where it aims to improve pedestrian connectivity and landscape in the City Center.

KR: What is your favourite building and why?
 PS: The Parthenon is a temple on the Athenian Acropolis, Greece. I love this place so much but I haven't been there.....yet.

KR: What was your proudest moment working in VERITAS?
 PS: Well, let see..... very long sigh!! Ahah... I guess to have a building that i designed and supervised to be finally completed.



KR: Well I have to ask you this question, as you are so petite. How do you maintain your body size and what's your favourite dish?
 PS: Adoi!!!!!!! i eat and eat but i can't add on weight!! My favourite dish is the "ketam masak lemak Chilli Padi" Chilli Crab cooked with coconut. Yums!!!!

KR: What are the projects that you are involved in currently or have recently completed?
 PS: I am currently working on the Desa Melawati Condominium for Sime Darby Properties and the Time dotcom HQ at Glenmarie. The projects that I have completed recently are a private residence for a renowned doctor in Damansara Heights and a private gym for a wealthy client in Taman Melawati.

KR: How would you describe VERITAS in 12 words or less?
 PS: Veritas always aims for the skies and is passionately driven for success.

KR: What is your favourite quote?
 PS: "Good things come to those who wait"

NEWCOMERS at VERITAS

Welcome on board new VERITASians: for VERITAS Architects Kuala Lumpur:

Architects Chong Yeh Seh (Issey), Choo Mun Ling; Draftperson Mohd Hanif Bin Ramli and Noor Hafiza Hanim Bt.Mohd Radzi & Assitant Architect Philippa Shew Carveth.

Sustainability Engineer Julian Saw Chern Yann for VERITAS Environment

BIRTHDAY GREETING

Ahmad Khairul Sabirin B. Ahmad Rosli, Mohd Noor Irwan B. Mastuki, Hamizah Binti Jaafar, Yong Chew Wah, Nor Razalely Bin Nordin, Sara Franco Restrepo, Anizah Binti Md Arifren, Mohd Azizi Felani Bin Abu Hassan, Chuah Shang Rong, Winston Ong, Roozbeth Taebi, Nurhidayah Bt.Yezid, Yusri Bin Yahya, Khairil Asraf Bin Abu Bakar, Norraihan Bt.Mat Nor, Junaidah Bt.Ali

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"A tremendous social responsibility comes with being a successful public performer."
 ~ A. Bartlett Giamatti



We hope you enjoy this month's VERITAS e-news!

And don't hesitate to contact us if you would like to know more about any of the stories featured here.