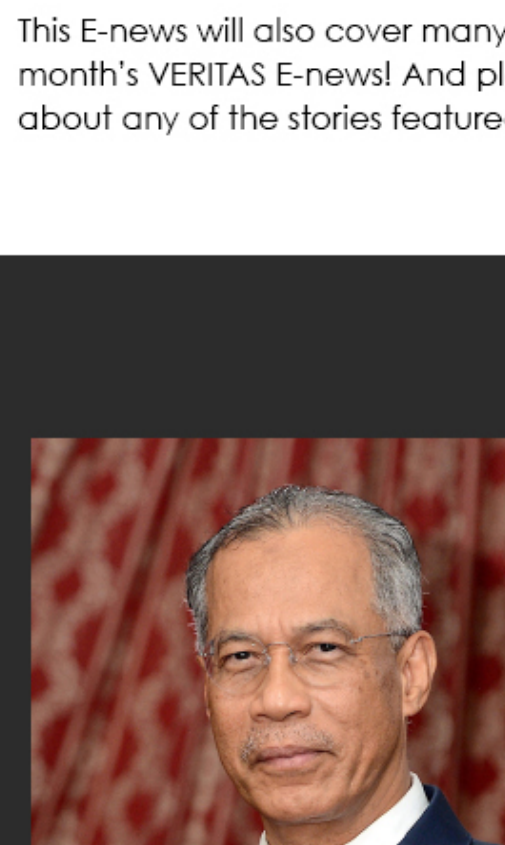
VERITAS
design group

Hello everyone!

Dear Readers, in this month's e-news we are pleased to feature an **EXCLUSIVE interview with the Mayor of Kuala Lumpur, Datuk Seri Hj. Mahadi Che Ngah.** The interview, which took place in mid-June, focused on the initiatives being taken and challenges being faced by Dewan Bandaraya (City Hall) Kuala Lumpur in regard to climate change. It also addresses the efforts being made to improve the quality of the urban environment.

JUNE 2021
E-NEWSLETTER

This E-news will also cover many other interesting happenings in VERITAS. We hope you enjoy this month's VERITAS E-news! And please don't hesitate to contact us if you would like to know more about any of the stories featured here.

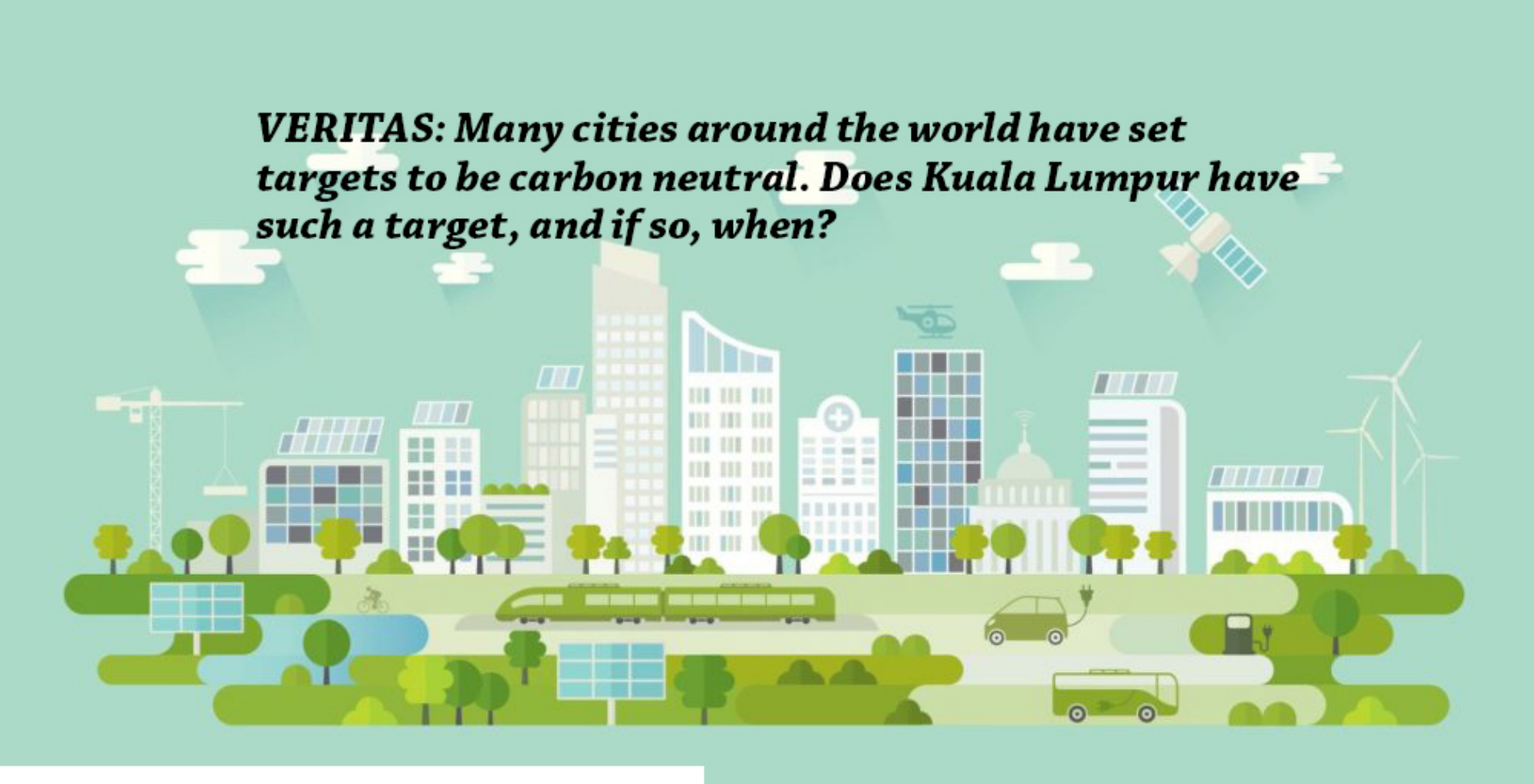


Datuk Seri Hj. Mahadi Che Ngah
The Mayor of Kuala Lumpur

Interview With The Mayor of Kuala Lumpur

The 13th Mayor of Kuala Lumpur, Datuk Seri Hj. Mahadi Che Ngah, has long been a committed champion for improving the quality of the built environment of his beloved city. Having been in various leadership positions in Dewan Bandaraya (City Hall) Kuala Lumpur (DBKL) for his 36-year career, he has witnessed the evolution of Malaysia's capital from a sleepy town in the early '80s to become the bustling metropolis it is today. In his new role as Mayor, Datuk Mahadi is especially focused on making the city more liveable by reducing its carbon footprint, improving pedestrian/cycling infrastructure, public transport and landscaping the public realm. He agreed to take 5 questions from VERITAS which relate to these efforts, specifically in the context of Kuala Lumpur.

VERITAS: Many cities around the world have set targets to be carbon neutral. Does Kuala Lumpur have such a target, and if so, when?



Datuk Seri Hj. Mahadi Che Ngah (DSMCN): As a developing and bustling metropolis, Kuala Lumpur has great aspirations to become a carbon neutral city. As stated in the Kuala Lumpur Structure Plan 2040 Draft, Kuala Lumpur City Plan Draft as well as Kuala Lumpur Low Carbon Society Blueprint 2030, we target to reduce carbon emission by 70% by 2030 and achieve Carbon Neutral City by year 2050. We have developed the Kuala Lumpur Low Carbon Society Blueprint 2030. This blueprint features 3 major thrusts, 10 actions and 245 green programmes.

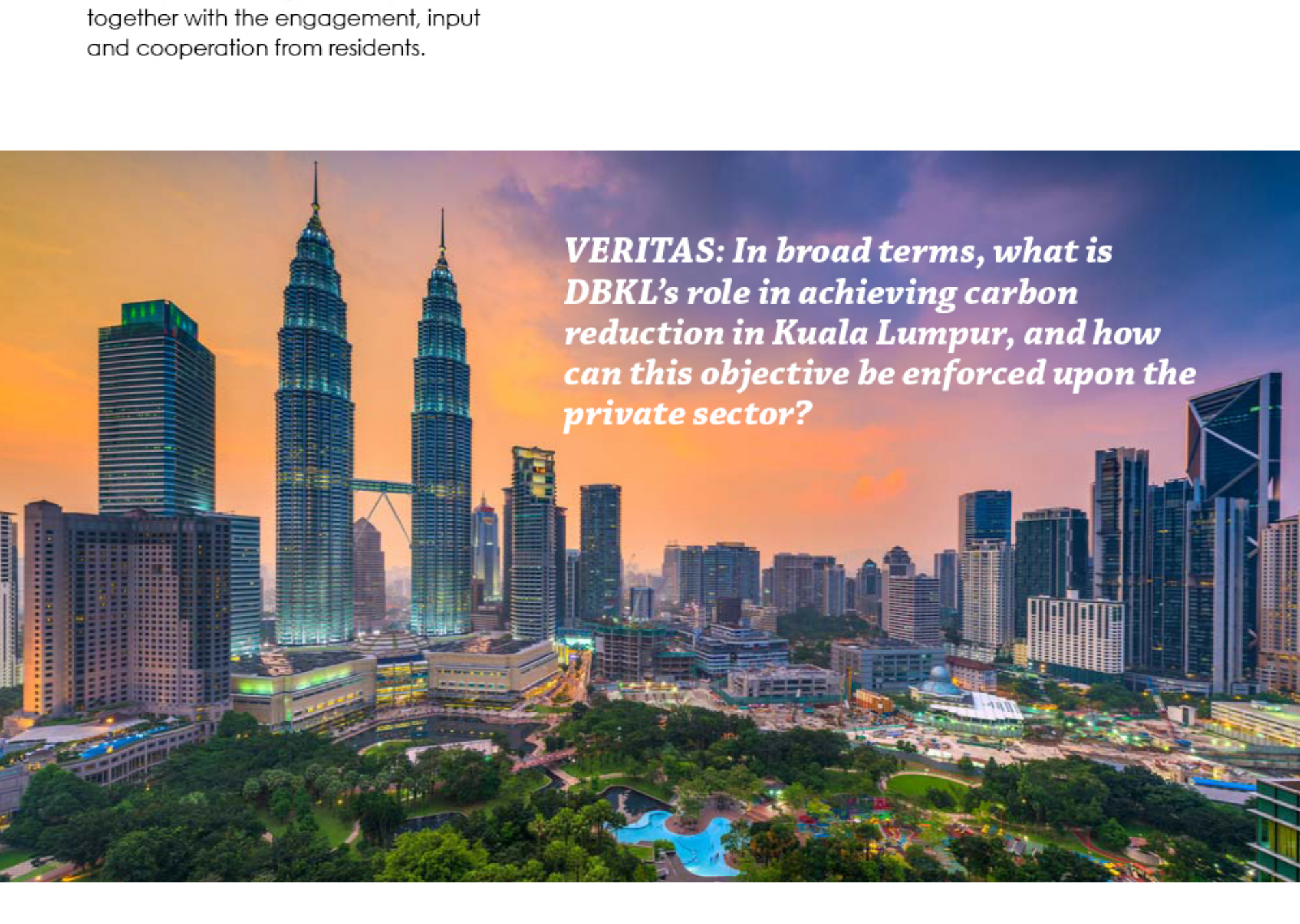
The 10 key actions are

- Green Growth
- Energy Efficient Spatial Structure
- Green Mobility
- Sustainable Energy System
- Community engagement and Green Lifestyle
- Low Carbon Green Buildings
- Green and Blue Network
- Sustainable Waste Management
- Sustainable Water and Wastewater Management
- Green Urban Governance

I am pleased to share that DBKL has already made tangible strides towards achieving these goals. We have undertaken various measures to ensure the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) related to urban carbon reduction and towards making Kuala Lumpur a smart city. As a kick-off for these projects, we are pleased to share that DBKL has earmarked Wangsa Maju as a Carbon Neutral Growth Centre by 2050. A new action plan is being drawn up together with the engagement, input and cooperation from residents.

Located in the north eastern part of Kuala Lumpur, the Wangsa Maju Growth Centre covers an area of 2,650 acres with 100,000 population. It is indeed relevant, strategic and timely to explore the sustainable, innovative, green and smart growth opportunities to create the Wangsa Maju Growth Centre. We look forward to it being the first thriving, prosperous, carbon neutral precinct in Kuala Lumpur.

VERITAS: In broad terms, what is DBKL's role in achieving carbon reduction in Kuala Lumpur, and how can this objective be enforced upon the private sector?



DSMCN: As much as DBKL is eager to kick off the efforts to play our role in reducing the city's carbon foot print, we need to walk the talk. So, we began by looking at our own energy consumption and carbon emission to have a clearer perspective and understanding. In a joint effort to counter climate change, DBKL undertook a pilot project with the Tokyo Metropolitan Government (TMG).

The pilot project study revealed that the biggest portion of power consumption by all of DBKL's main buildings were due to air-conditioning which consisted of 63% of the consumption while lights consumed 14% with the balance being for equipment and others. Following this, the root cause of the carbon emission was identified from old and dated air-conditioning equipment which produced high emissions. This equipment were identified and subsequently replaced with new, energy efficient and eco-friendly equipment.

A detailed study will be undertaken and revealed a lower energy consumption which in turn produces lower carbon emission. DBKL is doing its part in reducing carbon emissions by making tangible changes to energy consumption for its own buildings. As such, we hope that this will become a model for other building owners in Kuala Lumpur to take on this course of reducing their carbon footprint. We have no doubt that the journey to reduce 70% carbon emissions by 2030 requires a collective effort and we will engage with multiple stakeholders be it building owners, business owners, NGOs and others to implement a workable strategy to roll out energy efficient initiatives.

DBKL is aware that there are a few privately owned buildings that have utilised solar energy and we encourage similar initiatives to be rolled out in more buildings. As we are all aware, renewable energy solutions are the best bet forward for building owners to reduce their carbon foot print in order to remain committed to sustainable energy practices. On this note and to set a positive example to others, DBKL will be installing solar PV at its buildings which we have identified.

We fully understand; to reduce carbon emission in the city involved everyone and requires change in lifestyle. For the private sectors, their contributions are needed to build more green buildings, utilised renewable energy, and energy efficient equipment. Greener infrastructure is being built in the city. DBKL is encouraging more people to use public transport and more EV buses to be introduced soon to offer as feeder service for the first mile and last mile connectivity for public transport users. It is timely that private companies and government agencies in Kuala Lumpur to offer cash incentives to their staffs who commute to work using public transport.

VERITAS: What in your opinion is preventing Kuala Lumpur from becoming more pedestrian/cycling friendly, and what can DBKL do to overcome these obstacles?

DSMCN: The main challenge in preventing KL to become a more pedestrian and bicycle friendly is the complete network of green infrastructure. This refers to connectivity between walkways, bridges, sideways and transportation facilities to enable KLites to enjoy a seamless walking and cycling network. We still need to develop more dedicated lanes for cycling and walking and to enhance connectivity among these lanes. In tandem with this, there must also be acceptance and shift to this lifestyle by the city dwellers. We hope to be able to encourage walking and cycling again, once the pandemic is over.

VERITAS: What can the private sector, especially companies, do to contribute to a healthier Kuala Lumpur?

DSMCN: DBKL is grateful for the continuous support from the private sectors in their contribution in making the city cleaner and greener. To this end, moving beyond our own buildings, we have established a roadmap and key indicators to make Kuala Lumpur a decarbonised city by 2050. As the first step, DBKL has appointed a consultant to develop an inventory of buildings in the Central Business District (CBD) that are utilising Energy Efficient equipment. This will enable us to identify the energy efficient leaders within our CBD.

This exercise is expected to be completed by October 2021 and thereafter, we look forward to engage with these building owners and others to encourage greater usage of energy efficient equipment. We also look forward to collaborate with private companies towards a common vision for the city. Among those that we have identified include major multinational corporations and Malaysian companies namely: Shell, Petronas, Mobil, MyTown, EKOVEST, UOA, AEON BIG and others. In addition, beginning early this year, DBKL started the regulation for real estate developers to utilise at least 30% of Renewable Energy (RE) in their projects.

VERITAS: Popular urban planning theory suggests that cities should become denser to encourage mass public transportation and more vertical to make way for greater public realm. Should Kuala Lumpur follow this path?

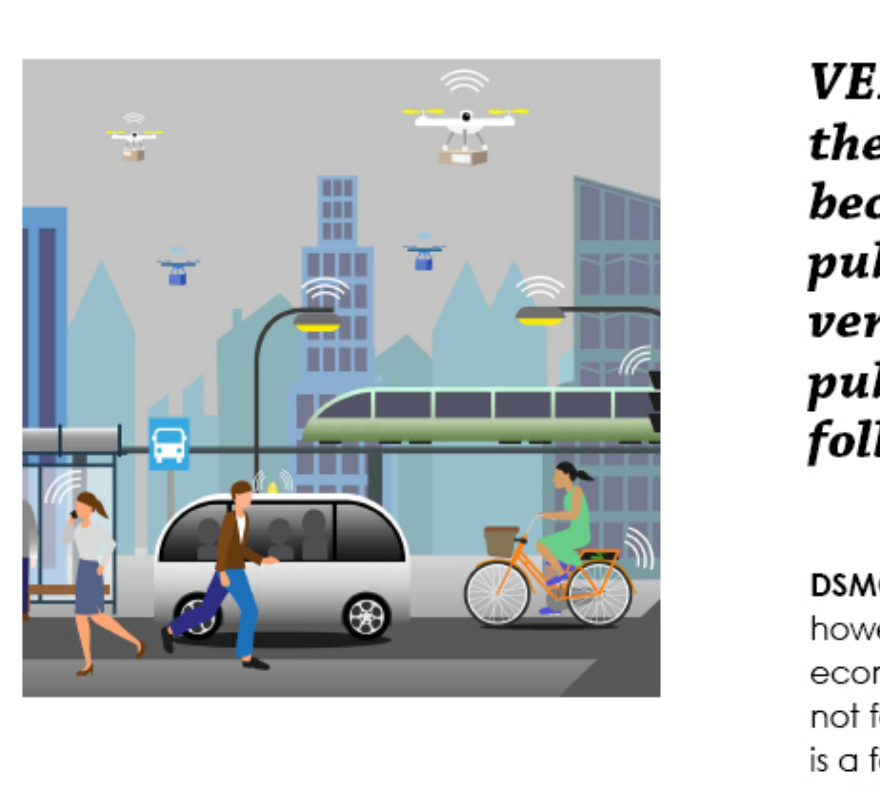
DSMCN: Going vertical would be a consideration however it would have to be balanced with demand and economic considerations. Of course, going vertical must not forget greater space for public plazas and squares. It is a fact that transportation is one of the highest contributors of carbon emission. It also causes stress for the road users when traffic is high, couple with bad congestion.

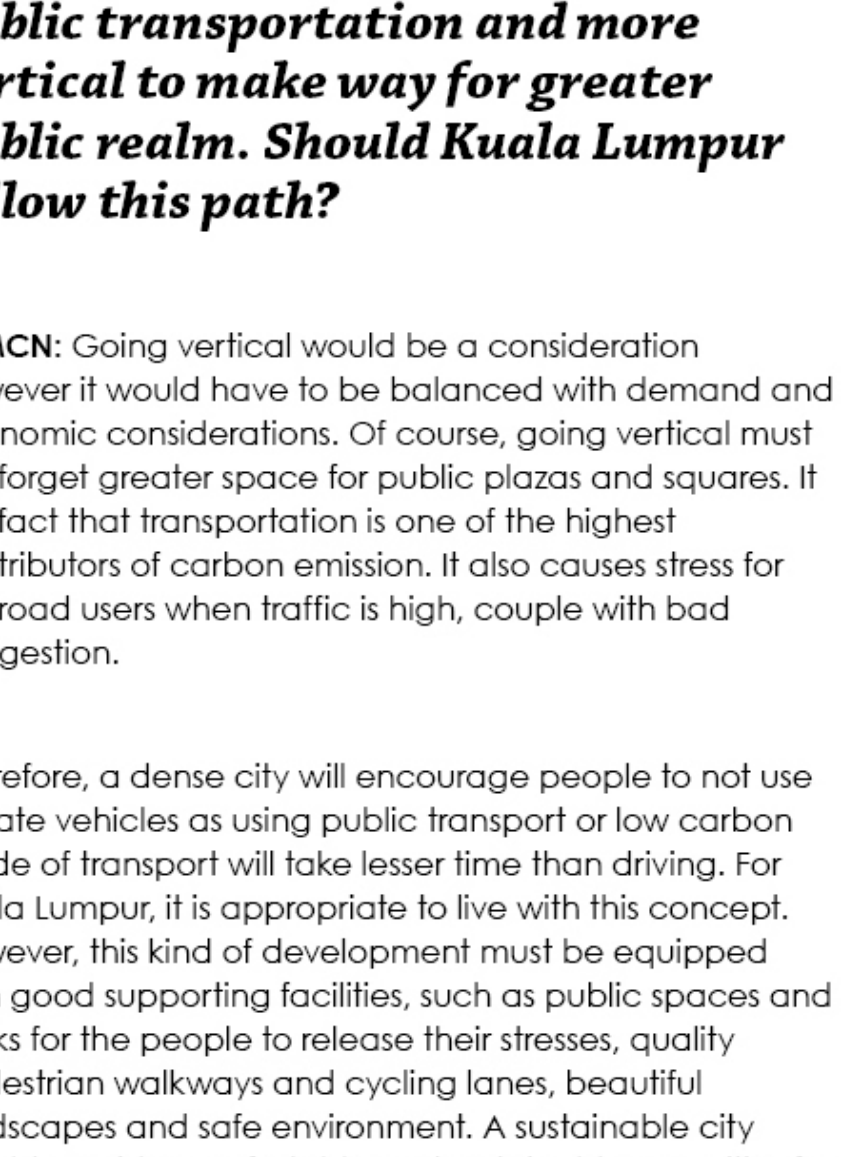
Therefore, a dense city will encourage people to not use private vehicles as using public transport or low-carbon mode of transport will take lesser time than driving. For Kuala Lumpur, it is appropriate to live with this concept. However, this kind of development must be equipped with good supporting facilities, such as public spaces and parks for the people to release their stresses, quality pedestrian walkways and cycling lanes, beautiful landscapes and safe environment. A sustainable city should provide comfortable and sustainable amenities for its inhabitants.

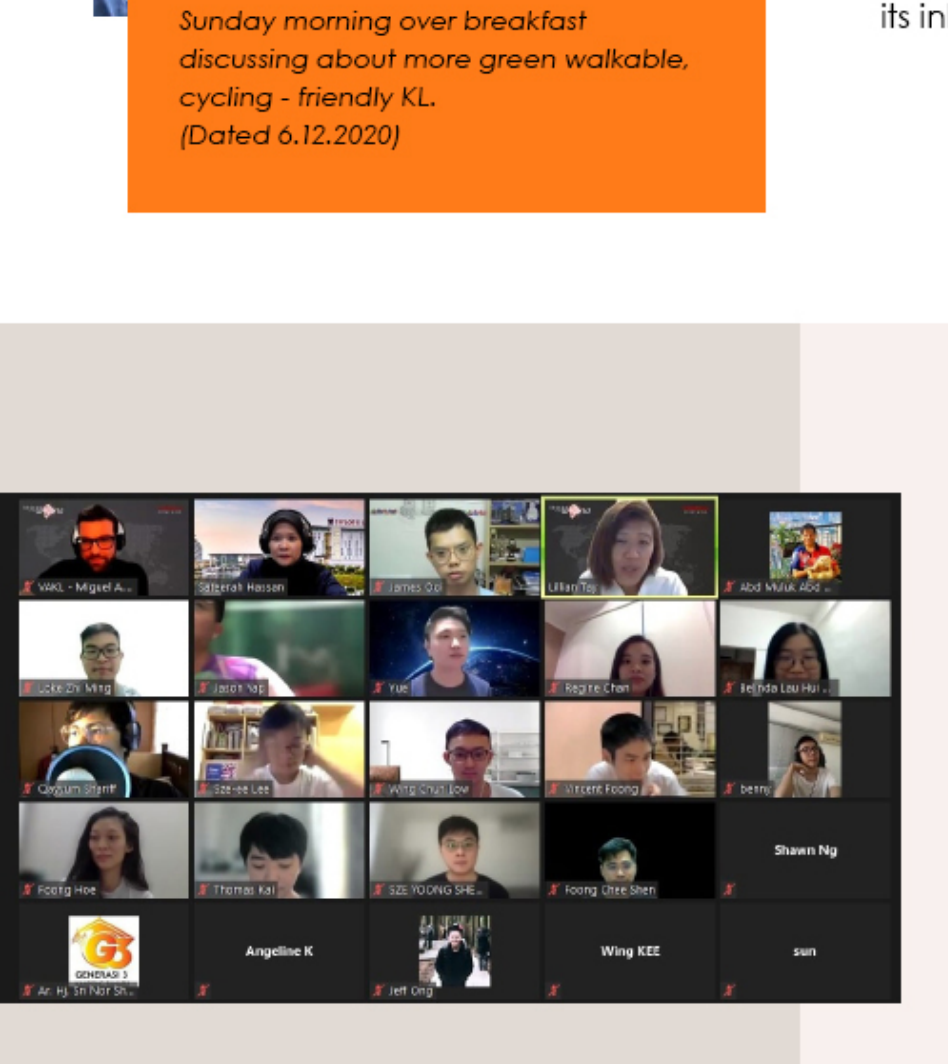
Sunday morning over breakfast discussing about more green walkable, cycling - friendly KL.
(Dated 6.12.2020)

Bridging Two Worlds; a Vision for a Community-centric City.

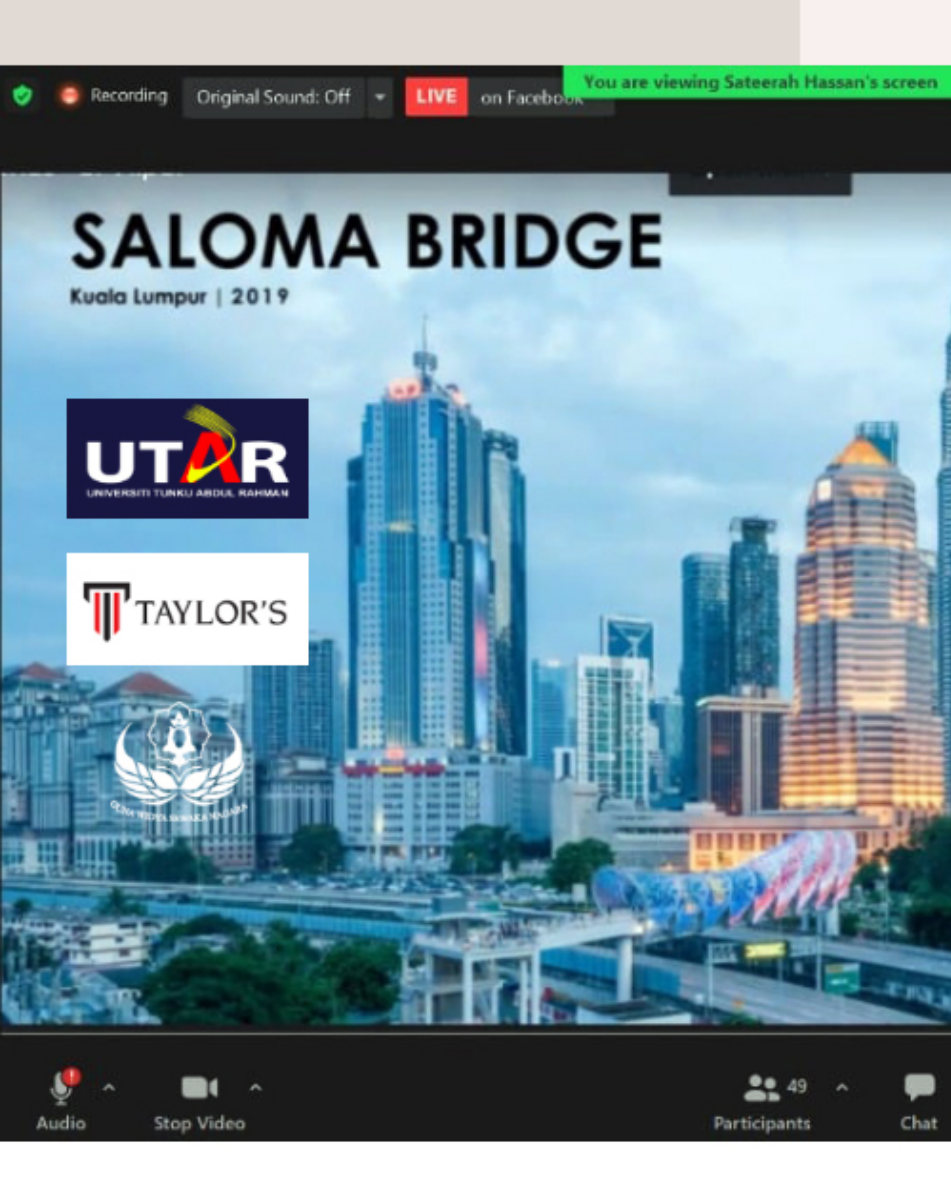
On 3rd June 2021 VERITAS Vice-President Lillian Tay gave a talk via zoom to over 50 students and lecturers from Taylor's University, University Tengku Abdul Rahman (UTAR) and Universitas Warmadewa, Indonesia. Her talk was entitled "Bridging Two Worlds; A Vision for a Community-centric City".

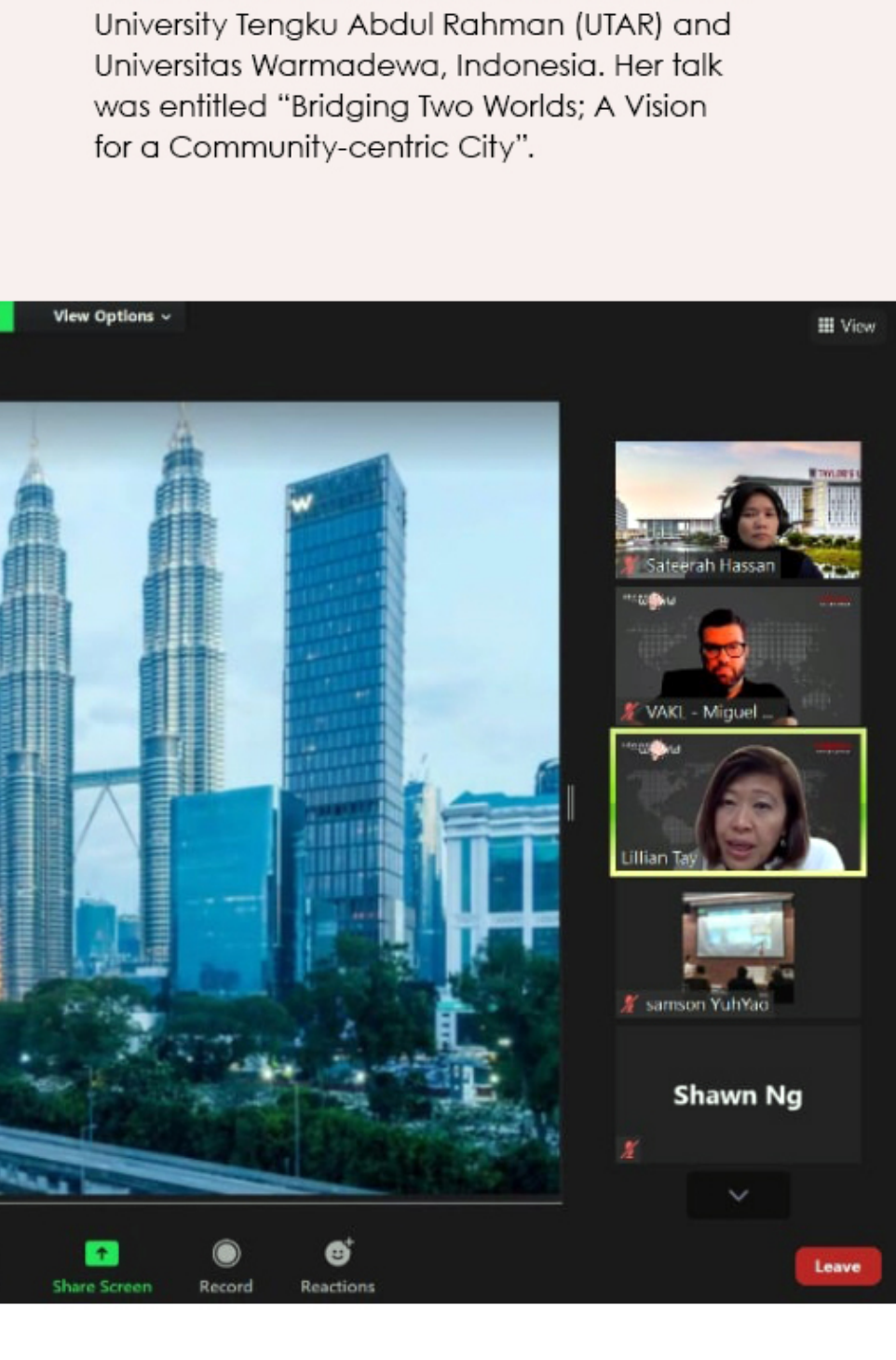






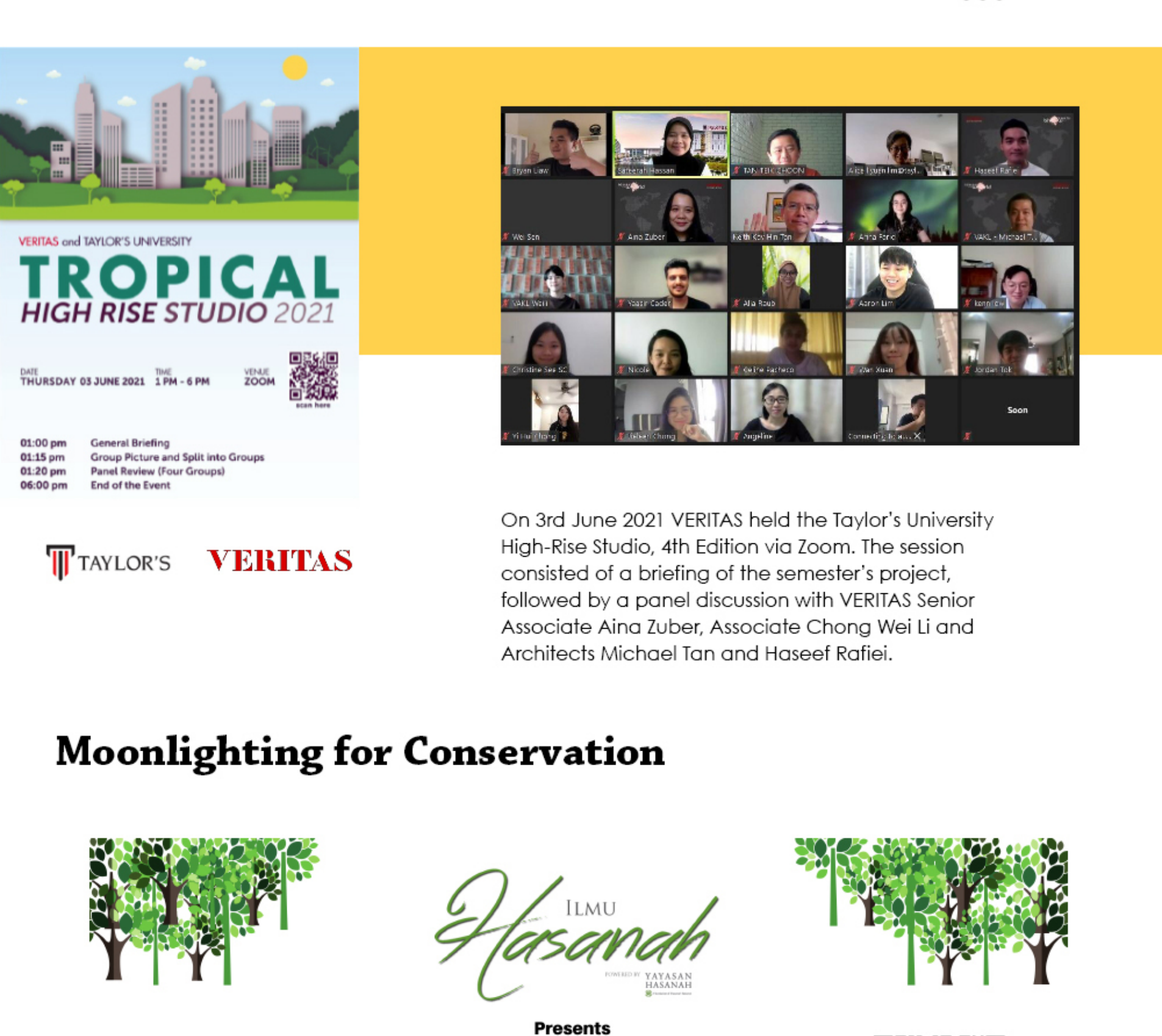
Taylor's High-Rise Studio 4th Edition


VERITAS and TAYLOR'S UNIVERSITY
TROPICAL
HIGH RISE STUDIO 2021
THURSDAY 03 JUNE 2021
2PM - 5PM
ZOOM
02.00 pm Course Briefing
02.20 pm Group Picture and Split Into Groups
03.20 pm Panel Review (Four Groups)
05.00 pm End of the Event
TAYLOR'S
VERITAS



On 3rd June 2021 VERITAS held the Taylor's University High-Rise Studio, 4th Edition via Zoom. The session consisted of a briefing of the semester's project, followed by a panel discussion with VERITAS Senior Associate Aina Zuber, Associate Chong Wei Li and Architects Michael Tan and Haseef Rafiei.

Moonlighting for Conservation


ILMU
Hasanah
Presents
Moonlighting for Conservation
Date & Time : June 8, 2021 | 10am - 11.30am MYT
Register at https://bit.ly/3oJnMkR
or by scanning the QR code.
Speakers:
Dato' Andri Aidham Badri
Lawyer
David Mizan Hashim
Architect
T.P. Lim
Film Maker
Moderator:
Ivy Wong Abdullah
Lead of Environment Impact Area
Yayasan Hasanah
What does a lawyer and an architect have to do with tigers? How did a film maker empower the youth to act for conservation? What leadership skills do you need to be the kind of individuals to act for the environment? Listen, Ask, and be inspired to take action for conservation.
Agenda:
10.00am - 10.05am: Welcome Remarks
10.05am - 10.10am: Introduction of topic and speakers by Ivy Wong Abdullah
10.10am - 10.55am: Panel discussion
10.55am - 11.30am: Q&A session
The webinar will cover:
How to make sense of environmental concerns and issues and what can be done
The roles of corporates and individuals and what can be done to step up for our environment
Powered by:
YAYASAN HASANAH

KHAZANAH NASIONAL

On 8th June 2021 VERITAS President David Hashim gave a speech via zoom in the "Moonlighting for Conservation" webinar hosted by Ilmu Hasanah, which is the social impact foundation of Khazanah Nasional. The event focused on environmental concerns, protection of our endangered tigers and the role of corporations and individuals to advocate for positive change.

FORWARD
EMPLIFYING EMPATHY THROUGH DESIGN
ASIA YOUNG DESIGNER AWARDS THEME LAUNCH 2021
PLATFORM LIVE VIA zoom
DATE | 17 JUNE 2021 (THURSDAY) | TIME | 2PM - 5PM

Asia Young Designer Awards Theme Launch 2021

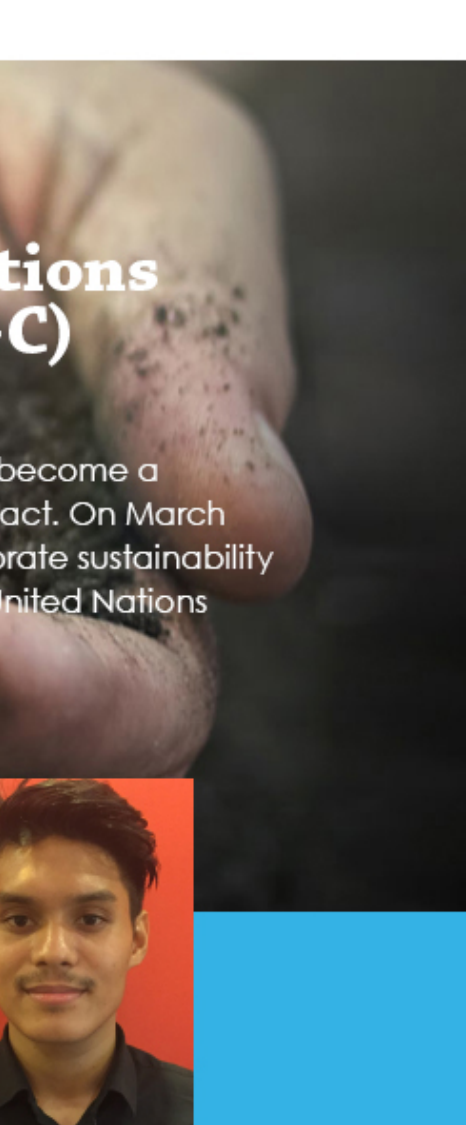
On 17th June 2021 VERITAS Principal Alif Arif was invited as a speaker for the theme launch of the Asia Young Designer Awards 2021. The launch was conducted via zoom during which Alif shared his experience, involvement on projects and the latest industry insights. The Asia Young Designers Awards (AYDA) was launched in 2008 with a vision to nurture the next generation of Architectural and Interior Design talents. It serves as a platform to inspire students from these disciplines to develop their skills through cross-learning opportunities and networking with key industry players.

VERITAS Member of United Nations Global Compact (UNGC)

VERITAS is proud to announce that we have become a member of the United Nations Global Compact. On March 2021 VERITAS joined the world's largest corporate sustainability initiative which is focused on achieving the United Nations Sustainability Development Goals (SDG).

In accordance with this, VERITAS has appointed Architect Jia Jun Chu (JJ) as the United Nations Global Compact (UNGC) representative leader.

VERITAS has also appointed Architect Nicole Hernandez to lead the VERITAS Fund for Excellence (VFE) an effort by VERITAS since 2004 to further our core values of constant innovation, a commitment to design excellence and social responsibility towards the built environment.

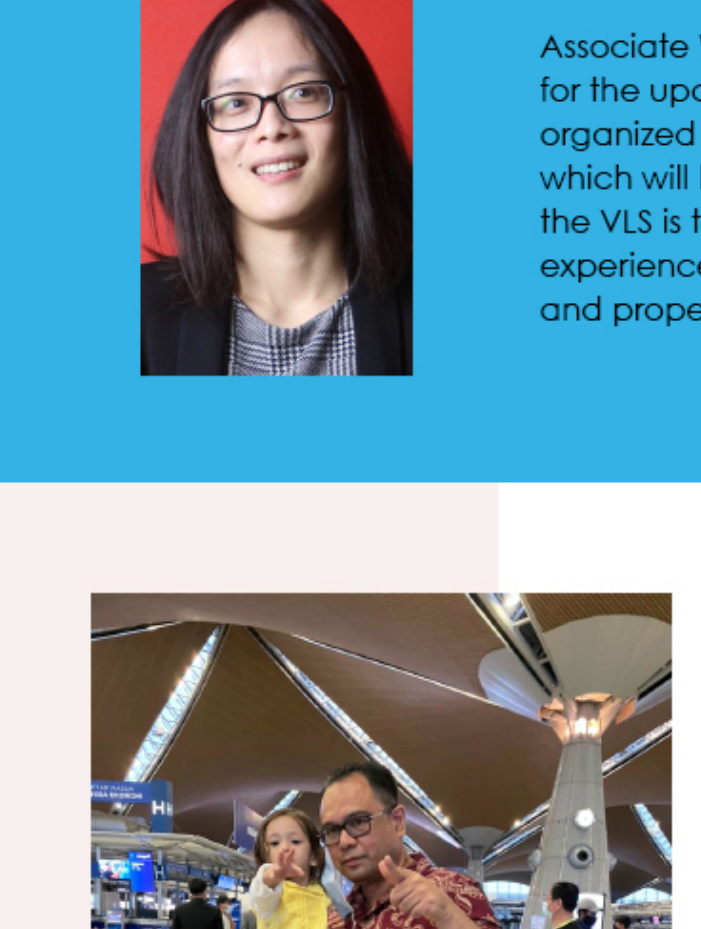


In early 2021 Architect Adam Faez was appointed as the leader for CARE Scheme, an in-house program to create awareness through financial incentives among VERITASians to adopt a more environmentally sustainable workplace.

Associate Wong Ka Yee was also recently appointed as the convenor for the upcoming VERITAS Lecture Series (VLS) which will be organized for the 14th year on October 2021 entitled "Mind the Gap" which will be on the theme of transportation. The main objective of the VLS is to present useful industry information and unique learning experiences to our Clients about subjects of relevance to the design and property development.

Staff of the Month

Our staff of the month for June is VERITASian **Muhamad Fauzi** from Penang Office, commonly known as just "Fauzi" among his colleagues and friends. Fauzi is currently holding the position of Project Manager and has been with the firm for the past 20 years. Fauzi shares his personal story with **Venuthan Ganasan** (VG):



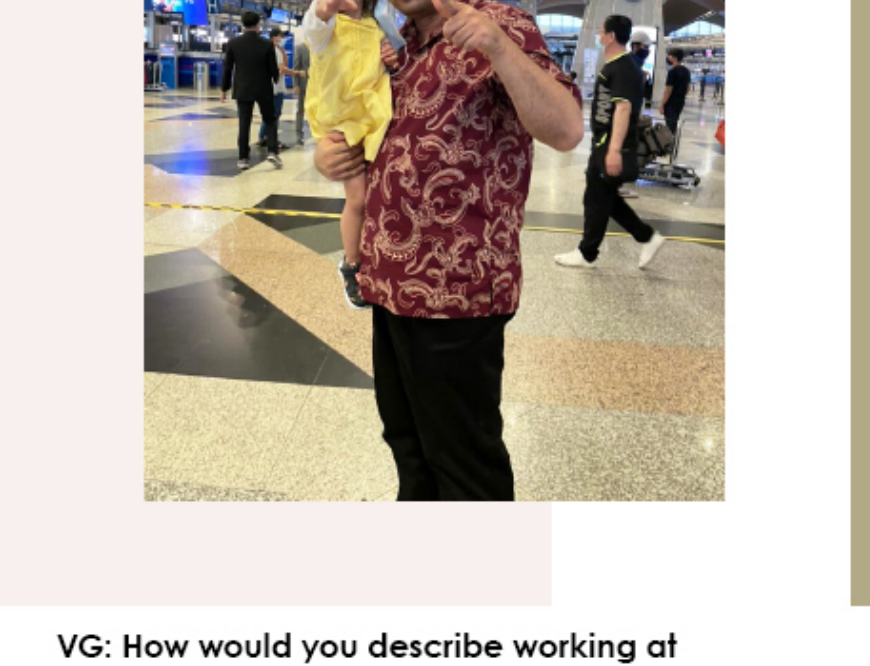
VG: How would you describe working at VERITAS Penang in a Movie Title? and Why?
Fauzi: The movie Lord of The Ring is how I would describe working in VERITAS. The adventure through hard times and good times with an only single goal on mind. That is what working in VERITAS was for me.

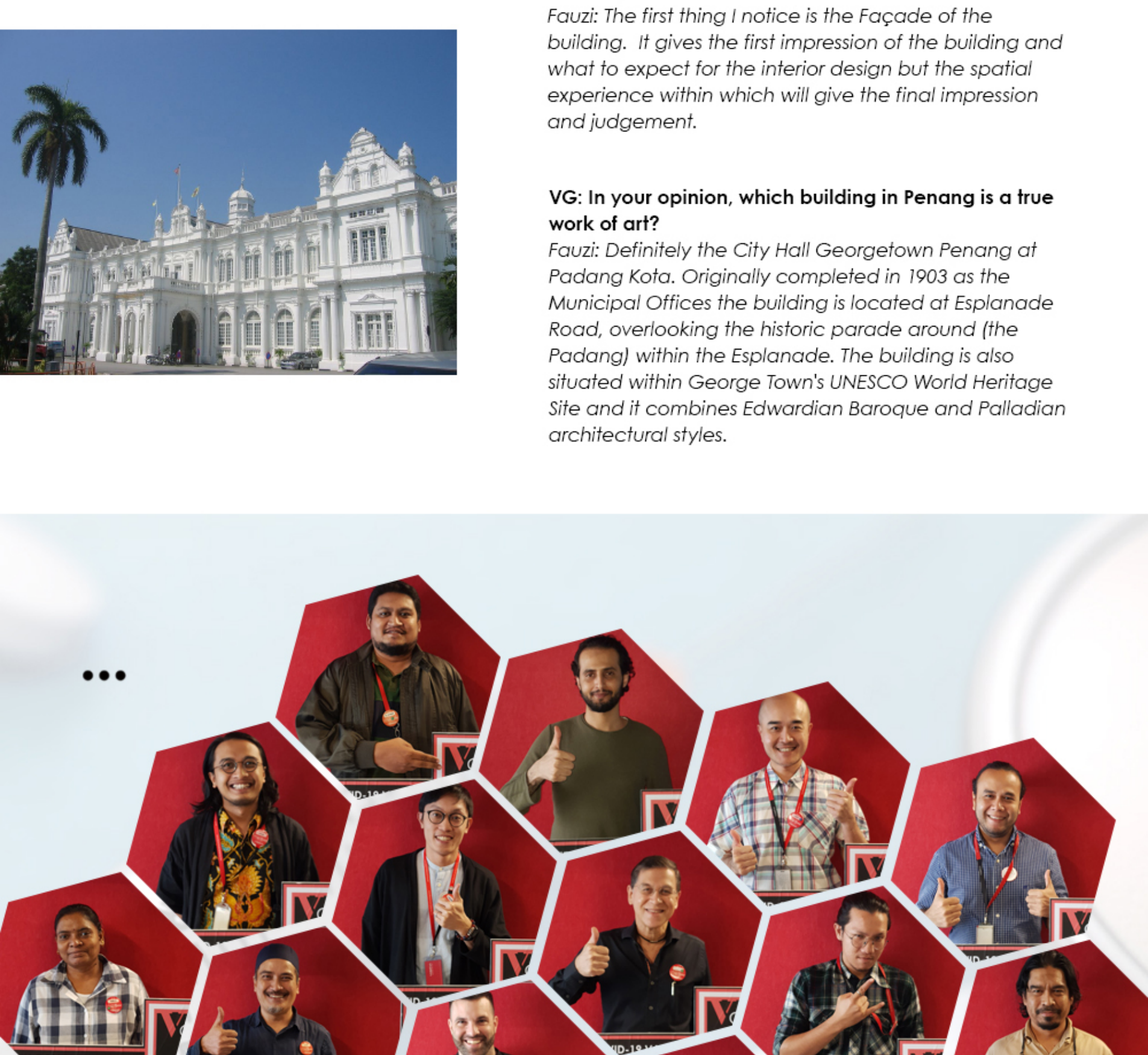
VG: If you were given a choice to transfer and work in VERITAS KL, would you take up the opportunity? If not, why?
Fauzi: No thank you. Ha-ha! My family is based in Penang and I wouldn't dream of leaving them.

VG: What's your passion or hobby? Is that what inspired you to choose a career in architecture?
Fauzi: Travelling & listening to music. Im an old school rock & roll lover by the way! I would say travelling is what inspired me to choose a career in architecture. The experience I gained from travelling is definitely crucial and beneficial to my work.

VG: What is the first thing you notice about a building, and why?
Fauzi: The first thing I notice is the Façade of the building. It gives the first impression of the building and what to expect for the interior design but the spatial experience within which will give the final impression and judgement.

VG: In your opinion, which building in Penang is a true work of art?
Fauzi: Definitely the City Hall Georgetown Penang at Padang Kota. Originally completed in 1903 as the Municipal Offices the building is located at Esplanade Road, overlooking the historic parade around (the Padang) within the Esplanade. The building is also situated within George Town's UNESCO World Heritage Site and it combines Edwardian Baroque and Palladian architectural styles.





VERITAS is proud to share some images of our staff who recently received vaccination for COVID-19. VERITAS will continue to work tirelessly to fight against this pandemic by maintaining SOP and getting ourselves vaccinated as soon as possible. Let's work together to get life back to normal!

Vaccinated VERITASians!

Muhammad Hazwan Sallehudin
@ Architect

Flory Ann Gajo
@ Senior Designer

Bundle Of Joy

Congratulations to VERITASian Bianca June Purkis and her spouse Jyunichi Washizaki on the arrival of their new baby girl Lexie Lee Washizaki on the 11th June 2021.

WHO'S celebrating their BIRTHDAY - June

7th Alvin Choo Hua Ping,
Mohd Ridzal Hassan, Fakhrurazi Bin Bustani
8th Haroon Sarfraz Qureshi,
Daniel Chong Voon Chuen
9th Nik Nubhan Bin Nik Mahmood, Tan Xin Lin
11th Ahmad Zahir Bin Osman,
Muhammad Khairul Hisham Badri
15th Muhammad Anuar Anas Bin Zainal
16th Annadhurai A/L Paskaran,
Zainul Fadli Bin Zaini
17th Engku Mohd Faez Bin Ungku Md Saleh
21st Sellorani A/P Sellappan
22nd Zaiful Firdaus
23rd Mohd Hanif Bin Ramli
25th Al Ratni Bin Abdul Said
28th Kamarul Othman
29th Muhammad Hafiq Bin Daud

The starting point is not design, the starting point is sustainability
Stella McCartney