VERITAS
design·group

Hello Everyone! Greetings from VERITAS!

In this month's E-news, we are delighted to focus on VERITAS' various Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) programs. We are also pleased to feature many other exciting events such as the winning of awards and publications of our projects in the media.

We hope you will 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.

October 2021
enewsletter

VERITAS CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY PROGRAMS

At VERITAS, Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) is reflected in the collective commitment and accountability of all our business operations. Due to the diverse business nature of the Group and its widespread design operations, VERITAS continuously strives to inculcate and embed CSR into its value chain, taking into consideration its responsibilities and the expectations of its stakeholders. It is a commitment that goes beyond regulatory compliance and ethical business behavior. The three key platforms for our CSR activities are the VFE, VLS and CARE Scheme.

Beach Clean-up 2021

VERITAS FUND for EXCELLENCE (VFE)

The VERITAS Fund for Excellence (VFE) in Design Education was founded in 2004 by the VERITAS Design Group to further our core values of constant innovation, commitment to design excellence and social responsibility toward the

World River Day Clean up

Mangrove Tree Planting, Kuala Selangor

Design group staff help restore nature park

Kuala Lumpur City Hall
'Adopt A Park' Programme

VERITAS
VERITAS

VERITAS Nepal Earthquake Fund

Refurbishment of Kampong Medan Flats

built environment. The fund arose from VERITAS' 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 VERITAS Fund for Excellence (VFE) has conducted many activities and projects throughout the years such as:

- Beach Clean-up 2021
- World River Day Clean up
- Mangrove tree planting, Kuala Selangor
- Kuala Lumpur City Hall 'adopt a park' programme
- VERITAS Nepal earthquake fund
- Refurbishment of Kampong Medan flats
- "25 trees for 25 years"
- Scholarship programme with Taylor's University
- Korea study trip for landscape architecture students
- Port Dickson beach clean-up
- 100 trees planting project
- Bukit Nanas Forest Reserve design competition
- Malaysian Nature Society Pavilion Lake Gardens, Kuala Lumpur

Port Dickson Beach Clean-Up

100 Trees Planting Project

Scholarship Programme with Taylor's University

Korea Study Trip for Landscape Architecture Students

Malaysian Nature Society Pavilion - Lake Gardens, Kuala Lumpur

Kampungku

Nicole Hernandez from VERITAS Architects Kuala Lumpur leads the VERITAS Fund for Excellence (VFE) for the 2021-2022 term.

VFE

You have been arranging many exciting VFE activities lately. What will be your next activity and how do these activities impact society and the environment?

NH: "It has been a whirlwind the past weeks, especially arranging it in a short notice! Big shout out to those who participated, you guys ROCK! Our first mangrove sapling collection is now undergoing 2.5 months germination, by December we will be going to Port Dickson again, and ready for planting! Don't miss this one out and another round of Beach Clean-Up in the future."

Bukit Nanas Forest Reserve Design Competition

She further explained

> ***"Not only are these activities bring environmental awareness towards society, but an importance to stabilizing the marine ecosystem as a whole. Small things done consistently, in strategic places create major impact. Not just reducing plastic straws"***

VERITAS-EPAC Collaboration with University of Malaya on DesignFabrication of Covid-19 Facemask UV Disinfection Appliance

RIMAU

* * *

veritas lecture
SERIES

VERITAS
Lecture Series (VLS)

The VERITAS Lecture Series was founded in 2007 as a one-day seminar that delivers a lecture or series of talks. The main objective of the series is to present useful industry information and

Tell me a little about the upcoming event “Mind the Gap.”

unique learning experiences to our Clients about subjects of relevance to the design and property development industry. The VLS is a yearly event that touches on architecture and design related subjects.

> ***Associate Wong Ka Yee is the convener for the upcoming VERITAS Lecture Series (VLS) which will be held online on 18 November 2021 entitled "Mind the Gap". It will be the first time the VLS is held virtually.***

If you are interested to join please contact Ka Yee at **arch@theveritasdesigngroup.com**

WKY: The main objective of the MIND-THE-GAP Conference is to explore the role of the Malaysian Public Transportation system in socio-economic progress. To what degree is public transportation an impetus of growth by connecting the city centers to the suburbs and to each other? The conference will investigate the role of various public transportation system types (MRT, LRT, HSR, ECRL, BRT, etc) starting from the planning stage up till the execution and the importance of "the last mile" to achieve a fully integrated solution for the people. Experts from policy and regulatory, finance, engineering, property development and design backgrounds will share their perspectives and exchange ideas for the future. Finally, the 14th VLS seeks to build a close collaboration and cooperation among the various stakeholders, as a first step toward realizing the vision of a National Transport Plan 2019-2030."

• • • VERITAS CARE SCHEME

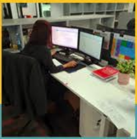
VERITAS
C·A·R·E
cost awareness by responsibility toward the environment

COST AWARENESS by RESPONSIBILITY toward the ENVIRONMENT (CARE)

The CARE scheme is an internal operations sustainability and carbon reduction initiative which was launched in 2007 and which has been practiced by VERITASians ever since.

How is CARE practiced in VERITAS?

- We recycle paper, plastic and aluminum cans and the arising monies are transferred to the CARE fund.
- We benchmark electricity consumption by average usage per month. Then, for a particular month, if the usage is less than this average cost, the Company reimburses the savings to the CARE Fund.
- We encourage our staff who drive to work (those who are given company petrol cards) to smaller engine cars. Penalties are imposed on the owners of large engine capacity vehicles and these monies are deposited into the CARE fund.
- We encourage car-pooling or use of public transport and monies saved from payments to the Car Park Management are re-imbursed to the CARE fund.
- The monies collected in the CARE FUND are then paid-out quarterly to those VERITASians who use public transportation.



Through this social and environmental responsibility initiative, VERITAS is contributing to environmental sustainability while returning to deserving VERITASians a part of what we have received in terms of support and goodwill from our Clients.

Architect Adam Faiz is the leader for CARE Scheme and he shares his thoughts about the program.

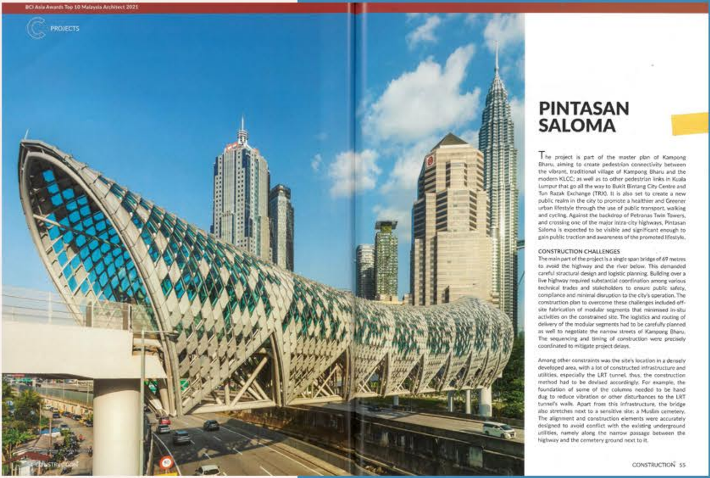
What is your plan for the upcoming months?

AF: "VERITAS CARE has curated an objective to create awareness among VERITASians to adopt a more environmentally sustainable workplace. Our new office in Wangsa 118 will be the first to experiment with many of these plans which will ensure maximum effectiveness of CARE scheme implementation. First of all, we target to reduce 10%-15% of total energy consumption in the year 2021 by monitoring the electric and water usage. IT systems to be set in power saving mode/sleep mode for all workstation when not use or during breaks. We are planning for Urban Farming program on rooftop to encourage green building and green city initiations. With the Urban Farming program we encourage VERITASians to continue the adopt-a-plant initiative. With the effect of Post Covid-19 impact we incorporate more teleconferencing/go-to meetings to reduce travel costs and carbon emissions."

VERITAS has also recently joined the UN Global Compact (UNGC) which works toward achieving the Sustainability Development Goals

(SDG). The 17 SDG goals are primarily focused on ending poverty, improving health and education, reducing inequality, and spur economic growth - all while tackling climate change and working to preserve our oceans and forests. We are committed to this Global Compact as it would be the leading catalyst of that transformation. VERITAS has been practicing the CARE Scheme for many years promoting a green office environment through various methods. The holistic approach of a green office prioritizes sustainability of the environment, which also translates to increased productivity and having happier, healthier and more efficient employees.

WHERE WE ARE FEATURED?



PINTASAN SALOMA

The project is part of the master plan of Kampong Bharu, aiming to create pedestrian connectivity between the vibrant, traditional village of Kampong Bharu and the modern KLCC; as well as to other pedestrian links in Kuala Lumpur that go all the way to Bukit Bintang City Centre and Tun Razak Exchange (TRX). It is also set to create a new public realm in the city to promote a healthier and Greener urban lifestyle through the use of public transport, walking and cycling. Against the backdrop of Petronas Twin Towers, and crossing one of the major intra-city highways, Pintasan Saloma is expected to be visible and significant enough to gain public traction and awareness of the promoted lifestyle.

CONSTRUCTION CHALLENGES

The main part of the project is a single span bridge of 69 metres to avoid the highway and the river below. This demanded careful structural design and logistic planning. Building over a live highway required substancial coordination among various technical trades and stakeholders to ensure public safety, compliance and minimal disruption to the city's operation. The construction plan to overcome these challenges included off-site fabrication of modular segments that minimised in-situ activities on the constrained site. The logistics and routing of delivery of the modular segments had to be carefully planned as well to negotiate the narrow streets of Kampong Bharu. The sequencing and timing of construction were precisely coordinated to mitigate project delays.

Among other constraints was the site's location in a densely developed area, with a lot of constructed infrastructure and utilities, especially the LRT tunnel, thus, the construction method had to be devised accordingly. For example, the foundation of some of the columns needed to be hand dug to reduce vibration or other disturbances to the LRT tunnel's walls. Apart from this infrastructure, the bridge also stretches next to a sensitive site: a Muslim cemetery. The alignment and construction elements were accurately designed to avoid conflict with the existing underground utilities, namely along the narrow passage between the highway and the cemetery ground next to it.

CONSTRUCTION+ 55

Pintasan Saloma

VERITAS' project the Pintasan Saloma (Saloma Bridge) was featured in the Construction+ Magazine's 3rd Quarter 2021 issue. The article highlighted the benefits of the seamless connection between Kampung Baru and Kuala Lumpur City Centre. The design of Pintasan Saloma was inspired by sirih junjung (betel nut leaf arrangement) which is an integral part of Malay wedding ceremonies.

StarProperty

StarProperty STAY-AT-NEW-HOME VIRTUAL FAIR COMING SOON!

Living with Covid-19

It is not exactly ground-breaking, but property industry stakeholders are finding new pathways to live with the lingering pandemic and mitigating its continued spread.

> See pages 8 & 10

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MMCH 2.0: Quality over quantity?
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DNA of a Smart City
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08 COVER STORY

A permanent change

Some things will never be the same again for the property market

Technological adoption sped up

10 COVER STORY

Other changes

Changes in the work environment

Living With Covid-19

On 8th October 2021, VERITAS Principal Syah Kamaruddin was featured in the Star newspaper property section. He shared his thoughts and experiences on the "new normal" at the work-place, construction sites and home. He also spoke about what is necessary to reactivate the economy post Covid-19 crisis in relation to the construction sector.

• • •

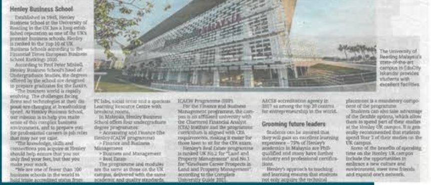
Nurturing Career-Ready Business Grads

Nurturing career-ready business grads

THE business world is dynamic and constantly changing. Globalisation, digitisation, government regulation and technology are all impacting the way modern business now operates – the business models of today may no longer be relevant tomorrow.

Consequently, companies that fail to move and respond quickly to these challenges run the risk of falling behind the competition and eventually going out of business.

Today's business talent must have an agile mindset that will allow them to quickly adapt in the face of a volatile business landscape.



Henley Business School

Established in 1945, Henley Business School at the University of Reading in the UK has a long-established reputation as one of the UK's premier business schools. Henley is ranked in the Top 10 of UK Business Schools according to the Financial Times European Business School Rankings 2020.

According to Prof Peter Miskell, Henley Business School's head of Undergraduate Studies, the degrees offered by the school are designed to prepare graduates for the future.

"The business world is rapidly evolving. The challenges facing firms and technologies at their disposal are changing at breathtaking speed. At Henley Business School, our mission is to help you make sense of this complex business environment, and to prepare you for professional careers in job roles that may not yet exist.

"The knowledge, skills and connections you acquire at Henley should help ensure that you not only find your feet, but that you make your mark.

"We are one of fewer than 100 business schools in the world to hold triple accredited status from

PC labs, social areas and a spacious Learning Resource Centre with breakout rooms.

In Malaysia, Henley Business School offers four undergraduate degree programmes:

> Accounting and Finance (the Henley-ICAEW programme)
> Finance and Business Management
> Business and Management
> Real Estate

The programme and modules are the same as those on the UK campus, delivered with the same academic and quality standards.

ICAEW Programme (SSP).

For the Finance and Business Management programme, the campus is an affiliated university with the Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA) Institute and the programme curriculum is aligned with CFA requirements, making it easier for those keen to sit for the CFA exam.

Henley's Real Estate programme is ranked UK No.2 for "Land and Property Management" and No.1 for "Graduate Career Prospects in Land and Property Management", according to the Complete University Guide 2021.

AACSB accreditation agency in 2017 as among the top 20 centres for entrepreneurship in the world.

Grooming future leaders

Students can be assured that they will gain an excellent learning experience – 75% of Henley's academics in Malaysia are PhD-qualified and many have further industry and professional certifications.

Henley's approach to teaching and learning ensures that students not only acquire the technical

placement is a mandatory component of the programme.

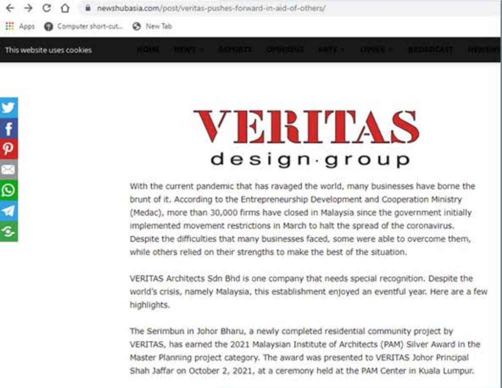
Students can also take advantage of the flexible options, which allow them to spend part of their studies at the Henley UK campus. It is generally recommended that students spend Year 2 of their studies on the UK campus.

Some of the benefits of spending time on the Henley UK campus include the opportunities to embrace a new culture and environment, meet new friends and expand one's network.

The University of Reading Malaysia's state-of-the-art campus in EduCity Iskandar provides students with excellent facilities.

On 14 October 2021, VERITAS' project Reading University Malaysia was featured in the Star Newspaper. The advertorial emphasized the wide range of facilities of this new campus in Malaysia. The university provides an opportunity for students to obtain a prestigious UK degree at a lower cost.

University of Reading Malaysia (UoRM) comprises of North and South 4-storey blocks with a "Heartspace" spanning in between. The design is based on the "Reading Experience" concept of grouping the departments around a central courtyard and blurring the edges of internal and external space. UoRM was designed by VERITAS in collaboration with Scott Browning Architects of UK.



With the current pandemic that has ravaged the world, many businesses have borne the brunt of it. According to the Entrepreneurship Development and Cooperation Ministry (Medac), more than 30,000 firms have closed in Malaysia since the government initially implemented movement restrictions in March to halt the spread of the coronavirus. Despite the difficulties that many businesses faced, some were able to overcome them, while others relied on their strengths to make the best of the situation.

VERITAS Architects Sdn Bhd is one company that needs special recognition. Despite the world's crisis, namely Malaysia, this establishment enjoyed an eventful year. Here are a few highlights.

The Serimbun in Johor Bharu, a newly completed residential community project by VERITAS, has earned the 2021 Malaysian Institute of Architects (PAM) Silver Award in the Master Planning project category. The award was presented to VERITAS Johor Principal Shah Jaffar on October 2, 2021, at a ceremony held at the PAM Center in Kuala Lumpur.

News Hub Asia - VERITAS Pushes Forward In Aid Of Others

On 17th October 2021, VERITAS recent Beach Clean-up and World River Day activities were featured in the News Hub Asia platform. The integrated news portal recognized VERITAS effort contributing toward society and the environment through its CSR programs.

> ***"Being a renowned design firm in the country, VERITAS Architects Sdn Bhd recognised that much assistance was required at this time, and their unselfish actions benefited many residents from various places."***
>
> by News Hub Asia

PAM AWARDS 2021
FOR EXCELLENCE IN ARCHITECTURE

PAM AWARD SILVER
Category 13
PLANNING & MASTER PLANNING
SERIMBUN

Architect : VERITAS ARCHITECTS SDN BHD
Client : NUSAJAYA GREEN SDN BHD
Builder : PAMIR DEVELOPMENT SDN BHD

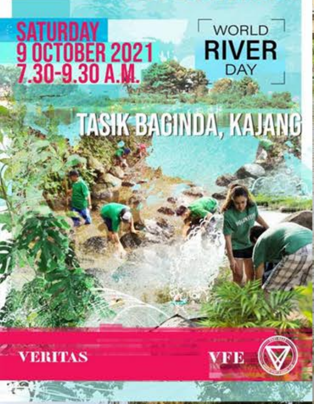
CONGRATULATIONS
SERIMBUN
Planning & Master Planning Category
| Awarded on 2nd October 2021 |
PAM PERTUBUHAN AKITEK MALAYSIA MALAYSIAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS
VERITAS design group

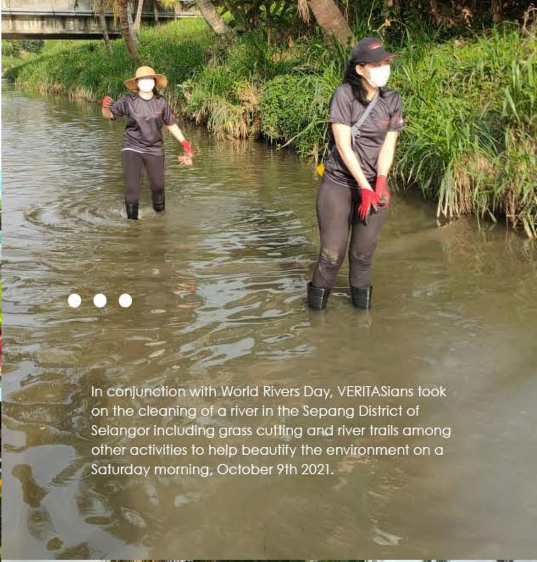
PAM 2021 Award

VERITAS' recently completed residential community project, the Serimbun in Johor Bharu has won the 2021 Malaysian Institute of Architects (PAM) Silver Award under the Master Planning project category. The award was received by VERITAS Johor Principal Shah Jaffar at a ceremony held at the PAM Center, Kuala Lumpur on 2nd October 2021. Congratulations to the team who worked on this impressive project!

REVIVE OUR RIVER

VERITAS FUND for EXCELENCE (VFE) and VERITAS SPORTS AND SOCIAL CLUB (VSSC) River Cleanup





In conjunction with World Rivers Day, VERITASians took on the cleaning of a river in the Sepang District of Selangor including grass cutting and river trails among other activities to help beautify the environment on a Saturday morning, October 9th 2021.

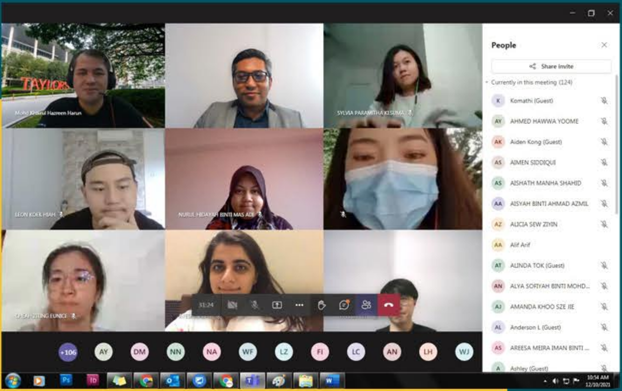
This was organized by the VFE and VSSC with the help of the Kampung Dato' Abu Bakar Baginda Community.

VERITAS SOCIAL & SPORTS CLUB

VFE

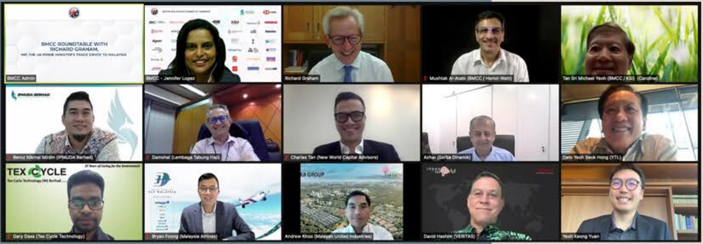
Taylor's Professional Development Week Oct'21 - *"Curating An Architecture CV and*

Portfolio”
by VERITAS



On 12th October 2021 VERITAS Principal Alif Arif Iskandar gave a talk on “*Being Prepared for your Interviews*” which was attended by more than 120 students via ZOOM. It was followed by a panel discussion with the Assistant Manager of Career Resources & Employer Relations (CaReER) Khairul Hazreen at Taylor’s University.

Roundtable With Richard Graham

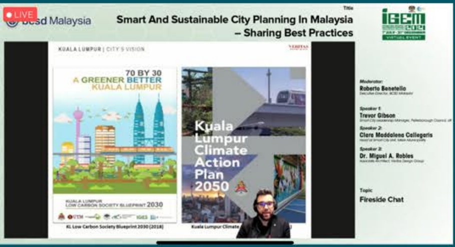

BMCC ROUNDTABLE WITH RICHARD GRAHAM,
MP, THE UK PRIME MINISTER'S TRADE ENVOY TO MALAYSIA
BMCC Admin
BMCC - Jennifer Lopez
Richard Graham
Mushtak Al-Atabi (BMCC / Heriot-Watt)
Tan Sri Michael Yeoh (BMCC / KSI) (Caroline)
Beroz Nikmal Mirdin (IPMUDA Berhad)
Damshal (Lembaga Tabung Haji)
Charles Tan (New World Capital Advisors)
Azhar (Serba Dinamik)
Dato Yeoh Seok Hong (YTL)
TEX CYCLE
Gary Dass (Tex Cycle Technology)
Bryan Foong (Malaysia Airlines)
Andrew Khoo (Malayan United Industries)
David Hashim (VERITAS)
Yeoh Keong Yuan

On 20th October 2021, VERITAS Group President David Mizan Hashim was one of the participants at an online Roundtable Session with Richard Graham, MP who is the UK Prime Minister's Trade Envoy to Malaysia. Mr. Graham took the opportunity to brief participants on the UK economy, including recovery priorities, and why the UK remains a strategic investment destination. This roundtable session comprised 12 participants and provided an excellent platform to share their experience of investing and doing business in the UK.

* * *

Smart And Sustainable City Planning In Malaysia

On 21st October 2021, VERITAS Associate Miguel Robles was one of a panelists at an online IGEM Conference for Smart and Sustainable City Planning in Malaysia - Sharing Best Practices which was organized by the Business Council for Sustainable Development (BCSD) Malaysia in collaboration with the British High Commission and the Embassy of Italy in Kuala Lumpur.


LIVE
bcsd Malaysia
Title
IGEM 2021
VIRTUAL EVENT
KUALA LUMPUR | CITY'S VISION
VERITAS
70 BY 30
A GREENER BETTER KUALA LUMPUR
Kuala Lumpur Climate Action Plan 2050
KUALA LUMPUR LOW CARBON SOCIETY BLUEPRINT 2030
KL Low Carbon Society Blueprint 2030 (2018)
Kuala Lumpur Climate

Smart And Sustainable City Planning In Malaysia – Sharing Best Practices

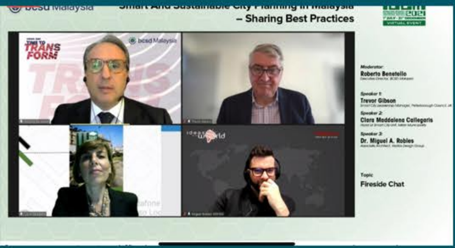
Moderator:
Roberto Benetello

Speaker 1:
Trevor Gibson

Speaker 2:
Clara Maddalena Callegaris

Speaker 3:
Dr. Miguel A. Robles

Topic:
Fireside Chat



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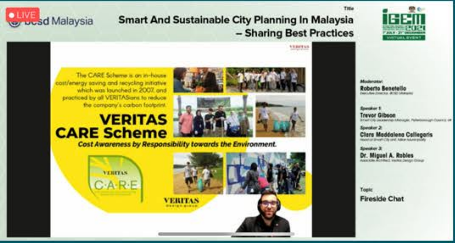


Smart And Sustainable City Planning In Malaysia – Sharing Best Practices

The CARE Scheme is an in-house cost/energy saving and recycling initiative which was launched in 2007, and practiced by all VERITASians to reduce the company's carbon footprint.

VERITAS CARE Scheme

Cost Awareness by Responsibility towards the Environment.

Moderator:
Roberto Benetello

Speaker 1:
Trevor Gibson

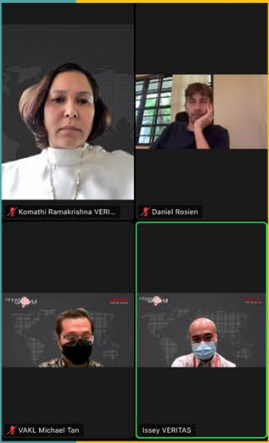
Speaker 2:
Clara Maddalena Callegaris

Speaker 3:
Dr. Miguel A. Robles

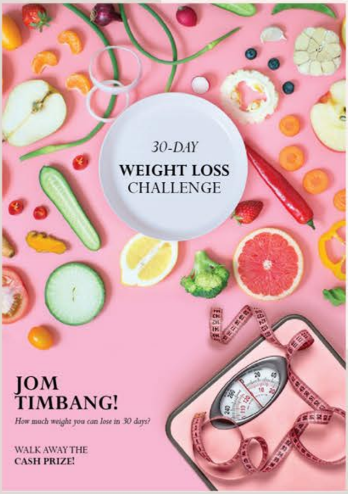
Topic:
Fireside Chat

VERITAS-TAYLOR'S Talk On Introduction To The PAM Contract

On 21st October 2021 VERITAS and Taylor's University School of Architecture and Design organized for a representative of VERITAS to give a talk on Introduction to PAM Contract 2021 via ZOOM. VERITAS Associate Issey Chong and Architect Michael Tan gave an overview of the subject to the student audience.



30-Day Weight Loss Challenge



VISSC
LOST WEIGHT COMPETITION
BMI

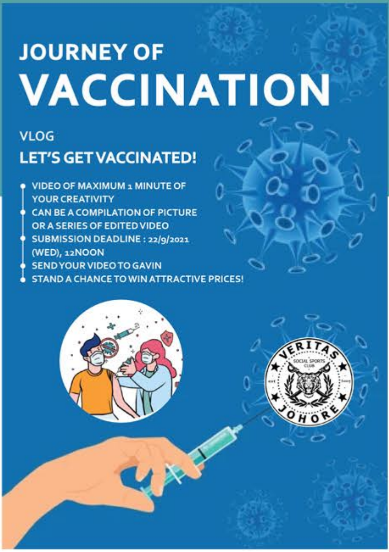
VERITAS Johor Sports and Social Club organized a 30-Day Weight Loss Challenge. The contest, in the spirit of being active and healthy challenged all VERITAS Johor staff to be more conscious of their weight. The staff worked hard for a month on the treadmill, jogging, taking diet supplements and other means to lose weight.

The winners of the contest were Senior Architect Mohd Fadzil Mohamad Yunus under the BMI Category and VERITAS Johor Associate Ramli Ahmad both of whom walked away with cash prizes.

And the other winners are:

Best BMI reduction
1st place: Fadzil
2nd place: Rafiuddin
3rd place: Suhaimi Saat

Biggest Weight Loss
1st place: Ramli
2nd place: Nurulhuda
3rd place: Wan Zalelawati



JOURNEY OF
VACCINATION

VLOG
LET'S GET VACCINATED!

- VIDEO OF MAXIMUM 1 MINUTE OF YOUR CREATIVITY
- CAN BE A COMPILATION OF PICTURE OR A SERIES OF EDITED VIDEO
- SUBMISSION DEADLINE : 22/9/2021 (WED), 12NOON
- SEND YOUR VIDEO TO GAVIN
- STAND A CHANCE TO WIN ATTRACTIVE PRICES!

VERITAS Johor Sports and Social Club also organized a "*Vaccination Journey through Video Competition*". This short video competition is to create awareness among staff of the importance of getting vaccinated. Congratulations to Architect Wan Zalelawati for being the grand prize winner.

Video Competition Vaccinate Yourself

Other award winners according to their categories:

Most Creative Award: Suhaimi Saat
Most Entertaining Award: Nurulhuda
Most Documented Award: Gavin
Most Anticipated Award: Devi
Most Stylish Award: Nadzeem

New Staff
VERITAS Landscape SDN. BHD.

Mohd Hafizul Abu Bakar
Landscape Artists (3D Visualizer)

Rasnajeet Kaur Khosa
Junior Landscape Architect

Ros Anissa Roslan
Intern (UTM)

Nor Aliana Ab Rahman
Intern (UTM)

Adib Rahimi Ramlan
Intern (UTM)

Nur Fadhilahtul Akma Ahmad Fauzi
Intern (UTM)

Nurul Qashrina Mohd Izlan
Intern (UTM)

WHO'S celebrating their BIRTHDAY - October

Lillian Tay (5th)
Nur Amalina Ahmad Taufik (7th)
Abdul Rahman Mat Ali (8th)
Marlia Dzulkefli (10th)
Pappathi Munisamy (10th)
Noor Halwani Ab Rahman (11th)
Muhammad Fazdli Abd Aziz (21st)
Siti Nur Sabilah Mohd Sani (23rd)
Mazliyani Alang (25th)

> **“Good design is all about making other designers feel like idiots”**
>
> *because the idea wasn't theirs*
>
> **~ Frank Chimero**