

PRESIDENT'S SPEECH – 1992 PAM ANNUAL DINNER, AUGUST 8<sup>TH</sup> 1992

On behalf of the Malaysian Institute of Architects, I wish to extend a very warm welcome to all of you for gracing this occasion. I would especially like to extend our appreciation to Yang Berhormat Encik Osu bin Hj. Sukam, our Deputy Minister of Housing and Local Government (who is here on behalf of the Minister who is away on an official visit to Indonesia). and also Tuan Haji Iskandar Astar Yang Dipertua MPPJ, for having taken valuable time off to be with us this evening.

Your esteemed presence to grace tonight's function has an added significance to this occasion. To our distinguished guests and visitors from overseas, I thank you for joining us this evening.

I would first like to congratulate and thank the hardworking members of the organizing committee of our 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Dinner, most ably led by architect Lee Kwong Yan for their splendid efforts and success in organizing this year's function. May we have architect KY Lee and all members of the organizing committee be up-standing and to be recognised.

Farid Baharuddin, Azim Aziz and Fay Cheah

There is no doubt that this year has seen a rush for tables by members and their firms. That 91 tables were booked for this function is unprecedented in the history of PAM. For this I would like to extend a big thank you to our members for their tremendous support and it is most heartening for the various committee members to see their great effort being enjoyed and appreciated by fellow architects and friends.

May I also take this opportunity to thank all the members of this year's Council for a most fruitful year. I thank them for their dedication and self-sacrifice for the benefit and well-being of fellow architects and the profession.

The Institute has many friends and it is through our friends' continued support that we are able to achieve some of our objectives. Therefore, I would also like to take this opportunity to thank;

- 1) Advance Industries;
- 2) Central Glass Aluminium Bhd and
- 3) Malaysian Sheet Glass Bhd

For so generously assisted in the fitting out of the new Council Chamber.

It is because of PAM's constant effort in maintaining and repairing this heritage building that the Datuk Bandar, Yang Berhormat Tan Sri Dato' Elyas

Omar decided that he would declare open the first phase of the restoration to the PAM building during the PACOM Conference in Kuala Lumpur last year. During the opening he declared PAM the legitimate custodian of the Loke Hall on behalf of DBKL. Datuk Bandar's interest in the architectural profession is further demonstrated by his agreeing to officiate at the opening of our new Members' Lounge at PAM Center and his continued confidence was further reinforced when he entrusted PAM with the restoration and repair of a building adjacent to our current Center.

The close rapport which exist between PAM and the Ministry of Housing and Local Government was further strengthened by the rectification and clarification of the confusion over the process of securing C.F. for housing schemes. The process is now streamlined. Instead of application for C.F. and other applications going in concurrently, the new and recommended procedure is for all clearances to be secured before final application for C.F. can be obtained. This final step being a simple formality. This is good news to all in the building industry.

PAM takes this opportunity to compliment the Ministry of Housing and Local Government for coming forward with the 'no trees no C.F.' policy. This is a landmark decision in the fight to preserve our environment. PAM would urge the Ministry of Housing and Local Government together with the Ministry of Environment, Science and Technology, to jointly draw up guidelines to urge developers and consultants involved in the development of projects to preserve even more of the environment by formulating concept designs on the basis of 3-Dimensional planning. Whereby instead of the current trend of chop, excavate, flatten and fill; they preserve, maintain and enhance the natural environment to be developed. Drains and other man-made copy of the great Architect's creation ought to be designed with minimum disharmony and disruption to the environment created for living. The Ministry of Environment, Science and Technology has initiated move for PAM to discuss environmental impact issues and to assist the Ministry in the education of the public. An initial meeting is planned for the not too distant future.

Whilst on environment, during the recent visit to Europe by the Ministry of Primary Industries, some NGO's in Sweden confronted our delegates with the contention that PAM, a member of UIA (Union of International Architects) is party to a resolution against the use of tropical hardwood.

I would like to, at this function, take the opportunity to once again reiterate what we have already released through the media, that PAM will not support any unilateral action which is in any way detrimental to Malaysia. From our inquiries there was never any formal resolution on this matter. UIA had at one of its workshop paper, recommended that this issue be for adoption by the Regional Sections of UIA. We will follow this matter up with UIA and will do so again in Chicago next year. If a resolution were ever to be passed by UIA against the use of tropical hardwood, PAM would use our influence among our friends in ARCASIA AND CAA to boycott UIA's action. The architects of Malaysia are in full support of our country's national policy.

As we are on international matters, may I also extend a warm welcome to our guests and friends from overseas who are here this evening with us. They are the heads of architectural schools of Australia, Papua New Guinea and other Asean countries, who are here to attend a conference on architectural education. This is a historical occasion and PAM is honoured that the Organizers have chosen KL to be host for this monumental conference on architectural education.

I would be failing in my duty if on such an august gathering that I do not mention the achievements of one of our members. This member has brought much fame and respectability to the architectural profession in Malaysia. For his achievements and recognition he was recently honoured by his Alma Mater, the University of Sheffield; by being conferred a Doctorate of Letters; and only last week he became the first recipient of the Asean Award for Architecture. To honour his many achievements PAM is proud to announce that Architect Datuk Dr. Ikamal Hisham Albakri has been nominated to receive the PAM Gold Award for 1992.

The prestigious Award will be presented to architect Datuk Dr. Hisham at a formal ceremony later this year whereby he will deliver the PAM Gold Medal Award Lecture 1992.

Only this week PAM together with other consultative bodies organized a very successful conference on the behest of the Prime Minister's Department on "The Building and Construction Industries towards the Year 2020". For this may I extend a big 'thank you' to our Conference Chairman, Architect Razali Wahi for a job well-done.

The history of PAM is a relatively long one. It started in 1920 under the name of the Institute of Architects Malaya (IAM). In 1948 the name was changed to the Federation of Malaya Society of Architects (FMSA) and it was in 1967 that its registration with the Registrar of Societies of Malaysia.

PAM is into its 25<sup>th</sup> year. As we progress with time, there are bound to be numerous projects, ideas and committees that become outdated and obsolete. It becomes an obligatory requirement that Council should from time to time engage themselves in 'house cleaning' exercise by re-looking and re-vamping the PAM 'machinery'. All machinery needs regular maintenance and repair. Invariably when a building becomes old or dilapidated, we have two choices – we both restore and carry out essential repairs or alternatively we dismantle these derelict structures. There have been some areas within PAM, which require some reorganization. We hope membership at large will support the Institute in its attempt at rectifying some anomalies and for making PAM more 'open' and democratic in its views and objectives. There was a time in the history of PAM when even the Council was subservient to a committee called the 'Special Task Force' or commonly referred to as STF Committee. It was more powerful than Council. Its decision was binding on Council; minutes of meetings on matters or decisions made were 'locked' away and not circulated to the Council. Council was not allowed to view these documents.

That committee has been dismantled. We do not want to see a repeat of such control by some single-minded members of the profession.

The profession must move with time, and with time we look towards 'new' blood to come forward. I would therefore like to introduce the new Council for this year:

Deputy President	Esa Mohamed
Vice President	Henry Lee
Hon. Secretary	P Kasi
Hon. Treasure	Tan Pei Ing
Council Members	1) Lim Teng Ngiom
	2) Lim Pay Chye
	3) Sonny Chan
	4) Loh Aik Eng
	5) Lee Kwong Yan
	6) Teong Kian Boon
	7) S C Valivelo
	8) Anthony Too
	9) Razali Wahi

With that I would like to end my address, as I am sure that our respected guests and all of you are anxiously looking forward to the rest of tonight's programme. Once again, I wish to thank all of you for your kind presence and wish you all a very pleasant and enjoyable evening.

Thank you.