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Showcasing Malaysia's achievements

DELEGATES of the ninth World Urban Forum (WUF9) were exposed to Malaysia's urban wellbeing concept and urbanisation process via technical visits on different routes of their choice. These visits were a result of Malaysia's engagement with various urban stakeholders in line with the forum's theme "Cities 2030 Cities for All: Implementing New Urban Agenda". The visits were organised on Feb 10 and 11 involving nine routes and 20 locations for 759 delegates.

ROUTE 1: SOCIAL ENTERPRISE

Malaysia has been taking proactive steps to build a strong infrastructure for the Malaysian entrepreneurship scene in the global landscape. The development of a strong and sustainable entrepreneurship ecosystem is a key economic driver for the nation to remain competitive. Under this route, the visits were arranged to the Dignity Youth Café in Sentul, People's Housing Programme (PPR) Raya Permai herbs nursery and WUF9 village at Medan Pasar. At PPR Raya Permai, delegates went to community garden and were introduced to river monitoring activities. Meanwhile, the WUF9 Village, was a collaborative effort by Urbanice Malaysia, Kuala Lumpur City Hall (DBKL) and Think City Sdn Bhd, which is a community-focused urban regeneration organisation under Khazanah Nasional Bhd.

ROUTE 2: URBAN SOLUTION AND INNOVATION

Malaysian cities are at the forefront in responding to national challenges as a chance to add holistically to the quality of city life. Malaysia has anticipated urban solutions with innovation that transform the lives of millions of city dwellers by improving transportation, sewage systems, producing resilient power networks, sustainable homes, new workplaces and inspiring cultural facilities. Under this route, the visits were scheduled to Bandar Sun-



Delegates being briefed on the work done at Dignity Youth Kitchen.

way which was developed by Sunway Group. In Bandar Sunway, delegates went to Sunway South Quay, Sunway University, Canopy Walk and Sunway Pyramid. They also visited the Pantai 2 Sewage Treatment Plant Project by Indah Water Konsortium Sdn Bhd, a project under the 10th Malaysia Plan to upgrade sewage treatment capacity as well as to 'River of Life' site, which aimed to transform Gombak and Klang rivers into a vibrant waterfront.

ROUTE 3: NEW URBAN DEVELOPMENT

Today's urbanisation can offer access to new ways of life, new opportunities, and a viable solution to the needs of a growing population and environment in distress. New urbanisation as bold experiments, offer a path to advancing models for development in more urgent timeframes, with the potential to create smarter, less wasteful, and more socially inclusive places to live, work and play. For this route, visits were organised to the federal administrative capital, Putrajaya and global technology hub, Cyberjaya. At

Putrajaya, the delegates went to Putrajaya Wetlands Park and they were also briefed by Putrajaya Corporation on city planning and development. The briefing also included aspects of commercial development and investment potential in Putrajaya. At Cyberjaya, the delegates were briefed on the Cyberview initiatives and other efforts to promote a vibrant growth of the area by the master developer of Cyberjaya, Setia Haruman Sdn Bhd and Malaysian Global Innovation & Creativity Centre (MaGIC).

ROUTE 4: URBAN REGENERATION

Urban regeneration is the retrofitting of underused or even unused parts of the city and making them come to life with activities from the local communities in a sustainable manner. Urban regeneration has been recognised as one of urban planning mechanisms in Malaysia's cities especially for dilapidated and blighted housing areas, abandoned projects, brownfield sites and old commercial areas. For this route, visits were organised to Sentul East & West where they were briefed



The delegates also visited Pulau Carey to see the Mah Meri tribe.

on YTL Land & Development Bhd, Bukit Bintang City Centre, which was redeveloped by Uda Holdings Bhd as well as KL Sentral, for introduction of Mass Rapid Transit train system.

ROUTE 5: URBAN HOUSING

The growth of the Malaysian housing sector has been underpinned by the interface between three forces; growing population, high rates of urbanisation and growing economy. In the specific context of Malaysia, housing policy has evolved over the years through the number of national development plans. For this route, delegates were introduced to Kuala Lumpur Homeless Transit Centre, Residensi Kerinchi and PPR Seri Alam to learn more about the initiatives under this route.

ROUTE 6: URBAN GREENERY

Malaysia has the vision of achieving 'Garden Nation' status by 2020, and in line with it, we have to find ways to ensure that development is balanced and our ecological integrity is preserved at the same time. The importance

of urban green in national development must be emphasised so physical development could be balanced by beautiful landscape developments with quality of life. For this route, the visits were organised to Forest Research Institute Malaysia and Perdana Botanical Garden.

ROUTE 7 AND 8: URBAN HERITAGE (MELAKA AND PENANG)

Urban heritage in Malaysia currently faces intensified urban problems as a result of rapid population growth, economic development and population growth. The introduction of new townships at the edge of many historic cities in Malaysia has exposed them to severe pressure of commercialisation, poor design and cultural uniformity that has faded away their place identity. Thus, regeneration initiatives should be introduced to restore the wealth of the prestigious past of the historic cities and to improve the lifestyle of its population. For this route, the visits were organised to Malacca where they had the opportunity to go to historical and popular tourist sites such as Jonker Walk and Penang where they visited Georgetown World Heritage Site. They also had the opportunity to meet the chief minister of both states.

ROUTE 9: URBAN RURAL

Urbanisation has significant impact on rural areas, and demand for food is perhaps the most important, together for demand for other natural resources. In many regions of the world there is an increase in production, especially of perishable and high-value products such as fruit, vegetables and dairy, responding to urban demand. This is especially the case in rural areas that are well connected to urban markets by transport links, communications and electricity, and by networks of local traders. For this route, a visit was scheduled to Carey Island, where visitors met the Orang Asli of Mah Meri tribe. Delegates were delighted to participate in the eye-opening visits. The visits provided an enriching experience for the delegates so they could brought back the knowledge and experience to their home country.



Delegates were shown solutions that have helped transform urban living for Malaysians.



Delegates also visited a homeless transit shelter in Kuala Lumpur.