

LIVING MOMENTS

Vol 5, Issue 3
July - Sept 2025

HOPES & DREAMS ISSUE

FREE | take me!

SAMARATHON 2025 SCORES

Big On Fun

ACROSS THE SEAS

Art Gallery Collabs
With Peninsula Masters

SWK GOV HAILS AIR

Eco-Led Planning Process
Deserves To Be Emulated

LANGIT RISE

The HSL-Ascott Condo-Hotel
Project Breaks Ground

AIR ——— The Winners List

KL Architects Dominate HSL's Masterplan Competition



EDITOR'S LETTER

Dear readers,

It has been a full few months.

Since our last issue, HSL has broken ground on Langit Citadines Kuching, concluded the AIR masterplan competition, and hosted the third HSL Samarahan Marathon—with more than 2,000 runners on the start line.

This is our Hopes & Dreams issue: a look at intent turning into action—whether through staging fitness events or masterplanning greener townships from scratch.

We may not achieve 100% of what we set out to do, but we will always try.

In this issue, you'll find plenty on "AIR — Building With Nature, The AIR Above Us, Di Bawah AIR Mengalir", which is Sarawak's first nationwide architecture masterplan competition.

Launched in 2024, we invited registered Malaysian architects to propose how best to shape a site beside Kuching International Airport—complete with the challenge of a river running through it.

Backed by a HSL funded RM250,000 prize pool, we received over 120 registrations and shortlisted 11 teams. The recent June 25 prize ceremony drew strong national interest, with coverage in outlets including The Edge, Robb Report and Sin Chew Daily.

We are now working with the top four winning teams to refine their proposals and to align them with Sarawak's regulatory requirements—particularly for Kuala Lumpur-based architects less familiar with local processes.

Over the next six months, our aim is to select one winning scheme to take forward. For the step-by-step path from competition to construction, see "What's Next for AIR," where we share lessons from Langit's own journey. (*Langit was a high-rise competition launched by HSL in 2021.*)

Speaking of Langit, this issue covers our ground-breaking and introduces the Malaysia–Singapore consultant line-up, assembled in part with our project partner, The Ascott Limited (*a wholly owned subsidiary of Singapore's CapitalLand*).

From Singapore, Light Collab shapes the lighting—inside and out—while Salad Dressing leads the landscape design. All hotel interiors are by CapitalLand's own interior design experts.

From Malaysia, David Ong Architect is leading the team in Sarawak, aided by Minsar on civil and structural engineering, and Perunding CHL on mechanical and electrical.

It is HSL's first time coordinating such a wide interdisciplinary team for a single development, and we're excited by the momentum.

Closer to the community, meet the duo behind Koharu Taiyaki, a new desserts-and-drinks outlet at La Promenade Mall inspired by their honeymoon in Japan.

And for inspiration of a different kind, we spotlight champions of the HSL Samarahan Marathon. Dr Tan Xian Wen and Sally Yap—a HSL-sponsored ultra-marathoner—share how discipline and mindset underpin performances that bring 42km home in around three hours.

Dr Tan, a scientist, logs 120–150 kilometres weekly; Sally, an accountant, trains with an auditor's precision.

Looking ahead, our next issue will bring updates from La Promenade—a new showhouse at Precinct Grande—early previews of a new residential phase, and a sneak peek at the mall's expansion.

Until then, enjoy Hopes & Dreams. 📖

Yours truly,

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No. 1, HSL Tower, Lorong La Promenade 2, La Promenade, Kuching, Samarahan Expressway, 94300 Kota Samarahan, Sarawak.

Project Address: Jigsaw, Lot 145 Block 17 Kuching Central Land District | House Units: 117 units | Developer's License No.: L0100KP/HK/01/2024/0039 | Validity: 20/08/2024 to 20/07/2028 | Advertisement and Sales Permit No.: P0108KP/HK/01/2024/0043-1 | Validity: 16/10/2024 to 26/07/2028 | Expected Date of Completion: 36 months from date of S&P | Tenure of Land: 60 years leasehold (Mixed Zone Land) | Building Plan No.: B.P. 51/2021 | Approval Authority: Majlis Bandaraya Kuching Selayan | SPA Approval No.: P1103187-20 | Selling Price: from RM300,000 to RM1,700,000 | SHEDA Membership: SHEDA/099/96
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Scan to watch the
architects' vision
for Jigsaw Condos.

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MAGAZINE OF HSL PROPERTIES

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Project Address: La Promenade - Precinct Grande, Lot 1889 (Part of Lot 893), Lot 674, Block 14, Muar & Tuang Land District, Kuching-Samarahan Expressway (Samarahan) / House Units: Three-Storey Detached (6 units), Three-Storey Duplex (18 units), Double Storey Semi-Detached (10 units) / Developer's License No.: L1605/KPH/09/160-R10 / Validity: 18/03/2025 - 15/03/2027 (Advertisement and Sales Permit No.: P225/KPH/09/160-R10) / Validity: 16/03/2025 - 15/03/2027 / Expected Date of Completion: 24 months (Double Storey Semi-Detached) / 32 months (Three-Storey) / Date of BPP: 17/03/2025 / Terms of Land: 99 years (Freehold (Muar & Tuang Land)) / Building Plan No.: (Three-Storey Detached) MPK5/P18/01/2018, MPK5/P18/02/2018, MPK5/P18/03/2018, MPK5/P18/04/2018, MPK5/P18/05/2018, MPK5/P18/06/2018, MPK5/P18/07/2018, MPK5/P18/08/2018, MPK5/P18/09/2018, MPK5/P18/10/2018, MPK5/P18/11/2018, MPK5/P18/12/2018, MPK5/P18/13/2018, MPK5/P18/14/2018, MPK5/P18/15/2018, MPK5/P18/16/2018, MPK5/P18/17/2018, 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2025 HSL Samarahan Marathon

Scores Big On Fun & Fitness

Over 2,000 Take Part In The Two-Day Fitness Festival,
Many Achieving Their Personal Bests

The third HSL Samarahan Marathon concluded with resounding success, as over 2,000 participants from countries as varied as Kenya, China, Singapore, South Korea, Indonesia and Brunei joining the two-day fitness weekend.

The marathon's top honour in the male category was clinched by Xian Wen Tan with an impressive time of two hours 55 minutes and 38 seconds. Meanwhile, Sally Yap emerged victorious in the female category with a time of three hours 46 minutes and 43 seconds.

In the half marathon, Andy Yeo Jia Wei claimed the male title with a time of one hour 20 minutes and 52 seconds, while Jia Xin Cheng triumphed among the female participants with a time of one hour 42 minutes and 55 seconds. Similarly, Dennis Isika and Jackline Nzivo emerged as winners in the male and female categories, respectively, for the 10km category.

Kota Samarahan Municipal Council (MPKS) chairman Abang Ismawi Abang Ali graced the prize giving ceremony, which took place at HSL's La Promenade Mall. Also at the event was Youth, Sports and Entrepreneur Development Ministry's permanent secretary, Morshidi Fredrick.

The festival kicked off with engaging fun runs of 3km and 6km on Saturday, with special recognition bestowed upon Voon Kim Choon, Arsyad Arjuna along with Leong Mun Kai for their imaginative costumes that spread joy among participants. Prize monies topped RM40,000.

Among the highlights of the competitive events were numerous participants surpassing their personal bests in the 10km, 21km, and 42km races.

Organisers, including HSL, Kuching City Joggers Club (CJC), and Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (Unimas), meticulously designed one of Malaysia's flattest running courses. From



VICTORIOUS: Jia Xin Cheng celebrating her victory as the winner of the 21km Women Open at the Samarahan Marathon 2025.



ADVENTUROUS: A winning pair, Arsyad Arjuna (right) as a fierce dino and Leong Mun Kai (left) as the iconic Mario, taking home the Best Costume Award.



ENDURANCE: Runners pushing through the night, reaching the hydration checkpoints with determination.



ENERGISING: Refueling after the event with Milo.

the start/finish line at La Promenade, runners ran towards the newly completed Tanjong Bako Road, crossing Samarahan's natural mangrove swamps and rivers.

The full marathoners' route also included roughly 9km inside Unimas.

The course's minimal elevation facilitated swift finishing times for many enthusiasts, while also encouraging amateur runners to push their limits.

Remarkably, the 21km half marathon category sold out first, followed by the 42km and 10km categories.

HSL marcom lead Abraham Tiong expressed pride in sponsoring such a significant event for the Kuching-Samarahan region. He remarked, "The overwhelming response underscores the potential of Samarahan as a vibrant community hub."

"The long distances outsold the shorter distances. It was a great surprise and a huge encouragement to us," Tiong said.

"It proved to us that our race course is well-liked by both pros and amateurs. Even before the event, so many were excitedly commenting on social media that this could become one of the 'fastest' races in Malaysia.



JOYFUL: Full of smiles and energy, participants start the race together.



ACHIEVEMENT: Celebrating triumph and teamwork, recognising the incredible efforts of the winners.

"Of course, so many also took part because there are plenty of youths in Samarahan, where there are two public universities, a teacher's institute, a golf club, research centres, and a large community of medical professionals from the hospitals."

Kuching CJC president, Elizabeth Wong, extended gratitude to HSL as the main sponsor, emphasising their crucial role in bringing the marathon to fruition.

"Without HSL, there would be no Samarahan Marathon. Not only did HSL provide the venue free, but they more-or-less sponsored the entire event. Many runners would have noted the good set up and generous prize money," Wong said.

CJC technical advisor Wendel Chan lauded UiTM and Unimas for their support.

"About 9km of the full marathon route was inside Unimas, which is the heart and soul of Samarahan. The uni also sent over 100 volunteers to our event. It has been such great teamwork to make the HSL Samarahan Marathon a reality."

Chan commended the collaborative effort that made the HSL Samarahan Marathon a resounding triumph. 🏆



COSTUME: Run, but make it fun!

A Champion's Run: Xian Wen Tan Wins 42km HSL Samarahan Marathon

From PhD Stress To Marathon Success – A Journey Of Perseverance And Victory

Long-distance running is an endurance true test, but for Xian Wen Tan, it is also about resilience, strategy, and self-discovery. The winner of the Men's Open category at the 2025 HSL Samarahan Marathon, Tan's journey to victory is one of grit and determination, proving that with the right mindset, anything is possible.

Tan's love for running started as a way to manage the pressure of his PhD studies in Japan. "I needed an escape," he recalled. What began as a way to relax soon turned into a full passion for running. "Each step was not just physical; it was about personal growth and pushing myself further."

Crossing the finish line as champion felt unreal for Tan. "I couldn't believe it at first," he admitted. Early in the race, he was far behind the leaders, but through careful pacing, he caught up and overtook his teammate, Hazarul. "It was a rewarding moment, especially after such a tough race," he said.

Tan's training was a blend of long-distance runs and speed sessions. His routine included long Sunday runs with teammates and trail runs for recovery. On weekdays, he focused on speed, improving his pace with intervals and tempo runs. "It was about staying fresh while building a strong base," he said.

Running a marathon is as much mental as it is physical. "I embrace the nerves before every race," he shared. Instead of worrying about pace, he focuses on the moment. "I stopped stressing about numbers and let my body guide me," he said. This shift in mindset helped him stay present and perform at his best.

Pacing is crucial in marathons, and Tan's strategy is to push in the first two-thirds and then assess how he feels for the final stretch. In this race, however, he started conservatively due to the intense heat, ensuring he didn't burn out early.

Like every marathoner, Tan faced difficulties during the race. From an ankle slip to dehydration and stomach cramps, the race was mentally and physically tough. But the

support from friends and bike marshals along the way kept him going.

Tan has a well-planned hydration and nutrition strategy. He drank water at every station and used electrolyte tablets and power gels to maintain his energy. His careful preparation helped him avoid fatigue and stay focused.

When he crossed the finish line in two hours, 55 minutes, and 38 seconds, Tan felt immense satisfaction. It wasn't about the time or position; it was about finishing strong despite everything. The sense of relief and pride stayed with him long after the race.

The biggest lesson Tan took from the marathon was the importance of adapting to unexpected challenges. Every race teaches me something new. Looking ahead, Tan aims to complete 30 consecutive sub-three-hour marathons, with 11 already in the bag. His dream is to run in iconic marathons like Tokyo, London, or Berlin, and eventually achieve a sub-2:45 marathon finish.

Tan draws inspiration from elite athletes like Suguru Osako and his teammates in Team Haolian. The journey is what keeps him motivated. As long as he continues to push his limits, the finish lines will keep getting crossed.

Tan's story is a powerful reminder that running is about more than just competition – it's about growing stronger with every step and never giving up, no matter the challenges. 🏆

Women's Open Champ

Keys To Sally Yap Success

Can you tell us a bit about yourself and your journey in running?

Sally: Hi, my name is Sally Yap and I'm a HSL sponsored ultramarathoner. I've always enjoyed sports from a young age, but I didn't start long-distance running until my mid-20s. Initially, I participated in shorter races to challenge myself, and eventually, I found a passion for longer distances. The endurance aspect of running fascinated me. Over time, I fell in love with the mental and physical challenges, and it became my way of constantly striving for growth.

How did you feel when you were announced as the champion of the women's open category in the full marathon?

It was an overwhelming moment. Winning the Women's Open at the HSL Samarahan Marathon felt surreal. I've worked so hard leading up to this, and when they announced my name as the winner, I felt a rush of emotions. I was proud, relieved, and most of all, thankful for the support I received throughout the journey. It's a moment I will cherish forever.

What was your training routine like leading up to this race?

My training was a balance of both endurance and speed. Since a marathon requires a lot of stamina, I dedicated most of my training to building endurance. However, I also made sure to incorporate speed work once a week to improve my pace. This combination helped me work on my stamina while ensuring I could maintain a good race pace for the entire 42km.

Running a marathon is as much a mental challenge as a physical one. How did you mentally prepare for the 42km race?

Mental preparation was key for me. I focused on staying positive and setting small, achievable goals throughout the race. Instead of thinking about the entire 42km, I would break it down into segments, telling myself, "Just focus on the next 10km," or "Get to the next water station." This kept my mind engaged and helped me avoid feeling overwhelmed. Visualisation was another tool I used, imagining crossing the finish line with a sense of accomplishment, which kept me motivated.

Did you have a specific race strategy in mind for this marathon? How did you manage your pace throughout the race to finish in three hours, 46 minutes, and 43 seconds?

Yes, I had a clear race strategy. I started off at a comfortable pace, knowing that the first half was crucial for saving energy. I aimed to keep my pace steady and avoid burning out too early. In the second

half, I gradually picked up the pace when I felt my energy levels were still strong.

During the race, was there any point when you felt like you might not finish?

There were definitely moments when fatigue started setting in, especially in the later kilometres. But I reminded myself of how far I had come and focused on maintaining my rhythm. I also relied on the crowd's energy and the other runners around me to keep pushing. During those tough moments, I kept telling myself, "One step at a time".

How did you manage your nutrition and hydration during the marathon?

I had a fueling plan in place, which included hydration stations and energy gels at key points. I drank water or an electrolyte drink at every aid station to stay hydrated and took an energy gel every 45mins to keep my energy levels up. I've practiced this in my long runs, so I knew exactly what worked for me.

What was the atmosphere like on race day?

The atmosphere was electric! The crowd's energy was contagious, and the cheers really motivated me throughout the race. Fellow competitors also played a big part in keeping my spirits up. We would encourage each other, and that sense of camaraderie really helped me stay focused. The event itself had a great vibe.

What was the biggest lesson you learned from this race?

One of the biggest lessons I learned was the importance of pacing. I've always been good at endurance, but this race taught me that pacing is crucial to managing energy over such a long distance. If I were to do anything differently, I would probably work even more on my pacing during training. But overall, I'm happy with how I performed.

What inspires you to keep running and pushing your limits in endurance events like marathons?

I'm inspired by the incredible athletes I've met along the way, as well as the community of runners. The resilience and determination that I see in others motivate me. I also find inspiration in personal growth. Every race is an opportunity to push my limits and become a better version of myself.

Looking ahead, what are your future goals in marathon running?

My goal is to keep improving and challenge myself with even tougher races. I would love to break my personal best and perhaps qualify for larger international marathons. I'm aiming to build on this success and continue to improve my performance. 🏆

Photo credit EJ Photography

TREE LINED: The scenic beauty of La Promenade as the perfect backdrop in the closing kilometres.

Koharu Taiyaki: New Treats At La Promenade Mall

Fish-Shaped Delights & The Most Amazing Ice Creams

Koharu Taiyaki is a heartfelt project born from the dreams of a couple eager to bring a piece of Japanese tradition to the people of Kuching. Located at La Promenade Mall, this quaint Japanese-inspired dessert and drinks shop opened its doors in February 2025. The couple behind the brand, Marcus Gian and Jaycee Tang, wanted to craft something unique that blended their passion for Japanese food with a sense of purpose.

The name "Koharu" translates to "little spring" in Japanese, symbolising the season of new beginnings. Both Gian and Tang chose this name because starting the business felt like a new chapter in their lives after a long period of planning. Every taiyaki served at Koharu is a reminder of that special moment.

For those unfamiliar with taiyaki, it's a traditional Japanese fish-shaped snack that's crisp on the outside and soft on the inside. Made with a light batter and cooked in a custom fish mould, taiyaki is filled with various sweet or savoury fillings. It's often described as a delightful blend of a pancake and waffle — light, fluffy, and satisfying.

Koharu's best-selling taiyakis include the classic Red Bean (*anko*), cherished by those who prefer traditional flavours, and the Nutella Taiyaki, a crowd favourite for chocolate lovers. While the menu currently highlights traditional fillings, the owners are continuously exploring creative combinations, drawing inspiration from local and international flavours.

Choosing La Promenade Mall as the location for their first store was a deliberate decision. Although the mall is not the busiest in Kuching, it offered a cosy, modern environment that matched the brand's vision. The



SPOUSE: Building their dream one Taiyaki at a time, Marcus and Jaycee, founders of Koharu Taiyaki.

FROM INTERNATIONAL TO LOCAL: Every taiyaki is made fresh.



“Thank you so much for your support. Koharu Taiyaki is a small dream built from love, family, and a deep appreciation for the little joys in life. Whether you're trying taiyaki for the first time or you're a regular, we hope you can always find comfort here.”

— Marcus and Jaycee

MALL: The new shop is located on the ground floor, next to MG Motors.

mall's sense of community and long-term potential were key factors in the decision. The owners appreciate the opportunity to grow organically, away from the frenzy of high-traffic malls, allowing them to focus on quality and customer relationships.

The response from the local community has been heartwarming. Regular customers, including nearby residents, have shown overwhelming support by returning time and again to try new flavours and to chat with the friendly staff. This sense of familiarity is exactly what the couple wanted: a place where they could build relationships with their customers while sharing the joys of their product.

Visiting Koharu Taiyaki is like stepping into a small corner of Japan. The store is decorated with cosy wooden accents, creating a warm and inviting atmosphere. The smell of freshly baked taiyaki fills the air, making it impossible to resist. Alongside their signature taiyaki, the menu also features a thoughtful selection of drinks, from premium matcha lattes to refreshing fruit teas. Everything is made to order, ensuring that every bite is fresh and satisfying.

While Koharu Taiyaki respects the deep cultural roots of its namesake snack, it doesn't shy away from infusing creativity into the offerings. The owners believe that food, like culture, evolves, and taiyaki is no exception. They strive to balance tradition with innovation by experimenting with new fillings and seasonal ingredients that reflect both the essence of taiyaki and modern culinary trends.

Their journey was inspired by a memorable trip to Japan, where they fell in love with the local culture, food, and hospitality. The couple spent their honeymoon in Japan, exploring small local streets and discovering how even the simplest snacks like taiyaki were crafted with care and respect for tradition. This experience stayed with them and became the inspiration behind Koharu Taiyaki.

Though taiyaki is at the heart of the business, the owners have big plans for the future. They hope to introduce other Japanese comfort foods, such as shokupan (*Japanese milk bread*) and seasonal taiyaki variations. Their menu will continue to evolve, influenced by customer feedback, seasonal ingredients, and their ongoing creativity.

In the next year or two, Koharu Taiyaki plans to expand its footprint, potentially opening a second location to serve more customers in Kuching. The owners are also exploring collaborations with local brands, like their recent partnership with Tomeltfor to create the Kumo Matcha Latte, made with local matcha gelato.

Koharu Taiyaki is more than just a business for the couple. It's a labour of love and a personal dream. Their hope is that Koharu becomes a beloved local brand known for its sincerity and high-quality offerings. They want customers not just to enjoy the food but to feel a personal connection to the story behind it. They aim to create a cosy space where customers can feel at home and return time and time again. 🍡



Driving Sustainable Future With MG Motor At La Promenade Mall

Iconic British Automotive Brand Brings Electric Innovation
And Sustainability To Sarawak



INNOVATIVE: Embracing the electric revolution with the sleek MG Motor Kuching at La Promenade Mall.

MG

MG Motor, a global brand, is proud to announce its presence at La Promenade Mall, as part of a new chapter for the automotive industry in Sarawak. MG Motor's commitment to provide innovative and environmentally conscious vehicles aligns with the growing demand for sustainable transportation solutions.

MG Motor, with over a century of history, combines British heritage with cutting-edge innovation, now under the leadership of SAIC Motor, China's largest automotive manufacturer. As the world shifts towards greener transportation solutions, MG Motor is dedicated to make electric mobility accessible for all, offering both traditional internal combustion engine (ICE) models and versatile electric vehicles (EVs).

"We understand that the journey to full electrification will take time," said Dato Hii King Chiong, Borneoland Automobile Chairman. "What matters is that we make the transition accessible, not intimidating, and that's where we come in." With this forward-thinking approach, MG aims to bridge the gap between conventional vehicles and the future of sustainable, electric mobility.



SUCCESS: Happy customers with their dream car. Pictured here with Suresh Adrian (right), MG's sales consultant.

MG Motor has already established three key dealerships across Sarawak. The flagship showroom in Kuching spans over 2,500sqft. It offers a modern, spacious layout, showcases the latest line up, with customer-friendly elements like a comfortable lounge and integrated service bays for quick maintenance.

The Kuching showroom is positioned to become a central hub for EVs enthusiasts, offering a wide range of MG vehicles. Among the notable models available are the MG4, MG ZS, MG Cyberster, and the newly launched MGS5 EV. These vehicles are designed to provide a smooth transition for both first-time EV buyers and seasoned enthusiasts.

MG's vehicles are not only known for their style and performance but also for their contribution to a cleaner, greener future. With China being a global leader in EV battery technology, MG vehicles are at the forefront of this shift towards electric mobility. In addition, the strong backing of SAIC Motor ensures that MG's commitment to quality, safety, and unwavering customer satisfaction.

"Our vision is to be more than just car dealers," said Hii. "We aim to be long-term partners in Sarawak's transition to a sustainable economy. Every step, every car, and every community contributes to a cleaner, greener future."

Since its inception in 1924, MG Motor has been synonymous with quality and innovation. Today, the brand stands as a symbol of refined, intelligent, and connected vehicles that are ready for the future.

Developed in collaboration with design studios in both Shanghai and London, MG vehicles are produced in China and are available worldwide. As a part of SAIC Motor since 2007, MG continues to lead the charge in EVs technology and sustainability.

With a strong commitment to intelligent EVs, SAIC Motor is driving the shift to a greener, more sustainable future. Ranked 93rd on the Fortune Global 500 list in 2023, SAIC Motor's vision of a high-tech, user-oriented future includes the promotion of new energy cars.

"To learn more about the exciting range of MG vehicles and experience a glimpse of the future of mobility, visit the new MG Motor showroom at La Promenade Mall," Hii said. "Whether you are considering an EVs for the first time or looking to upgrade to a smarter, more sustainable vehicle, MG is ready to help you make the transition."

For more info, visit mgmalaysia.com or follow @MGmotorMY on social media. 



Stok Gov Collabs With Hoan Gallery On Exhibition

“Through The Canvas, Across The Sea” Unites Five Celebrated Malaysian Masters At La Promenade Mall

Hoan Gallery and the Tourism, Creative Industry and Performing Arts Ministry recently collaborated on the “Through the Canvas, Across the Sea,” a landmark exhibition featuring 50 artworks by five renowned West Malaysian artists.

“Through the Canvas, Across the Sea” featured Dato Chong Hon Fatt, Voon Kim Cheong, Lee Choon Kooi, Loo Hooi Nam, and Tham Siew Moi — presenting artworks that explore themes of identity, heritage, and cultural landscapes.

This marks Hoan Gallery’s first collaboration with the ministry, highlighting the gallery’s unique position as a centre of art appreciation and development in Sarawak.

“It’s rare for these five masters to appear together, and their enthusiasm reflects Kuching’s growing art movement. On behalf of everyone at the gallery, I’d like to thank the Sarawak Government for recognising the significance of this show and partnering with us,” said Hoan Gallery founder Kee Huang.

“I believe local art lovers were in for a treat—this collaboration underlines our commitment to nurturing creativity and cultural exchange.”

Prior to the art show’s opening, many local art lovers followed Chong’s outdoor live painting sessions around touristic areas of Kuching.

Hoan Gallery also hosted drama interpretation sessions inspired by Tham Siew Moi’s artwork, performed by students from Chung Hua Middle School No 1, live music by Voon Kim Cheong, and more.

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DATO CHONG HON FATT ▶

拿督张汉发 | b1941 | Penang

Toko Malindo Kuching, 2001
Oil on Canvas
46cm x 56cm

Known for his impressionistic cityscapes, Chong has contributed several notable works, including his 2001 oil-on-canvas *Toko Malindo Kuching* (46 x 56 cm) and *Arulmigu Mahamariamman Temple, Queen Street, Penang* (51 x 61 cm). Both capture the lively essence of Malaysian street life and cultural landmarks, showcasing Chong’s hallmark interplay of colour, light, and texture. Chong also conducted live painting demonstrations during the exhibition period.



◀ **LEE CHOON KOOI**

李俊贵 | b1950 | Kedah

One face One Story, 2023
Chinese Ink
181cm x 88cm

Lee draws inspiration from woven carpet patterns and intricate textile designs, reflected in his multilayered pieces. He led tee shirt drawing workshops, encouraging visitors to engage more actively with his artistic process.





◀ LOO HOOI NAM

吕辉南 | b1965 | Kedah

Street Scene Kuching Sarawak, 2018
Oil on Canvas
60cm x 80cm

Loo focuses on vibrant scenes of Malaysian life, using dynamic oils and acrylics to depict local culture with energy and depth.



▲ THAM SIEW MOI

覃少妹 | b1969 | Johor

In The Moonlight 2, 2024
Watercolor
36cm x 51.5cm

Tham brings whimsy and dreamlike qualities to watercolours that intertwine ethereal figures with abstract shapes and colour, adding a sense of wonder to the exhibition.

VOON KIM CHEONG ▶

温锦章 | b 1968 | Kuala Lumpur

Not Me! Not You! It's Our, 2025
Acrylic on Jute
80cm x 107cm

Presents bold, semi-abstract compositions that fuse traditional motifs with expressive brushwork. Attendees can also look forward to a special live music performance by Voon, reflecting his multidisciplinary approach to art and creativity.



From Pg. 16

Hoan Gallery, established in 2021, has previously showcased exhibitions by artists such as Alena Murang, Bong Choo Chew, the late Mdm Chong Liew Syn, Joanne Lau, and David Chew—ranging from modern to traditional styles.

The gallery's emphasis on both emerging and established talents reflects the diversity and dynamism of Sarawakian art.

For more information, visit hoangallery.com or follow @HoanArtGallery. Updates are also available at lapromenademall.com.my and on social media at @LaPromenadeMall. 

HSL To Build One of Winning AIR Designs

MOA Architects, Ar Azwan & Datuk Ar Ken Yeang Tops Winner List

Pertubuhan Akitik Malaysia (PAM) and HSL have unveiled the results of the AIR Architecture Competition. MOA Architects, headed by Kuala Lumpur-based Sarawakian Ar Hung Ing Sing, clinched first prize.

The competition—“AIR: The AIR Above Us, Di Bawah AIR Mengalir”—sought the best masterplan for a 13.5-acre land beside Kuching International Airport.

Launched mid-2024, it was judged by a seven-member panel that included both Malaysia's youngest and one of its most senior PAM Gold Medalists.

MOA's scheme, designed by Ar Hung and Tan Ling Rong, proposes what could become Malaysia's

largest green roof. It beat 10 other shortlisted teams and earned the RM120,000 prize.

Ar Azwan Othman took second place with a hexagonal, longhouse-inspired design.

TR Hamzah & Yeang, in collaboration with Aki Media, finished third. Datuk Ar Ken Yeang's proposal preserves 76 percent of the site's mangrove forest and river, placing mid-rises around the perimeter.

Lateral Architects' “Land Bridges” and Qhawarizmi Architect's “Hydrogen AI Smart City” rounded out the top five. Prize money totalled RM250,000, fully sponsored by HSL; PAM designed and ran the competition.

HSL Managing Director Datuk Paul Yu Chee Hoe noted the mix of veterans and emerging talents:

“Every competition—this is our second—reveals outstanding ideas from a wide range of people. MOA's soaring green canopy, Ar Azwan's prefab



TOP FIVE: Adrianta (right) presenting the top five proposals to Dr Sim.



CONGRATS! Dr Sim (third right) shaking hands with Ar Hung during the prize-giving ceremony.



EXCITEMENT: Jurors, HSL directors, and PAM president prior to the start of the results announcement.

FULL: Over 200 guests at the AIR Prize Giving Ceremony comprising government officials, senior architects, university students and the media at HSL Tower.

approach that minimises site damage, and Ar Yeang's masterful town-planning each tackle sustainability in distinct ways."

PAM President Ar Adrianta Aziz explained the process:

"Stage One judging was anonymous—we saw only printed boards. In Stage Two, each finalist presented and faced Q&A. A competition remains the fairest way to judge merit."

He noted AIR is the only architecture masterplanning competition of 2024 and 2025. Adrianta paid tribute to HSL and participants, adding:

"Ultimately, the real winners will be the people of Kuching and Sarawak. They will enjoy a development with public spaces, clean air above, and clean *air* (*water*) below. Syabas HSL."

Deputy Premier Datuk Amar Dr Sim Kui Hian, who represented the Premier at the results ceremony, called for more eco-design-led developments.

"This AIR competition exemplifies the development model my Government champions: one that unites planners, architects, investors and, most importantly, the public," Dr Sim said, reading from Premier Tan Sri Datuk Patinggi Abang Johari Tun Openg's speech.

"As the convenor observed, each entry stands on its own merit, yet they share a common instinct: to treat the river not as an obstacle but as a living corridor. Great cities grow from great rivers, whether in Kuala Lumpur or here in Kuching.

"Equally heartening is the human-centred emphasis in every submission. Cities are ultimately



MEDIA: Ar Hung responding to reporters' questions after the ceremony.

judged not by skylines but by the happiness and health of their citizens: Are we active? Are there places to meet and mingle? Do we feel rooted?"

He added that green developments such as AIR are aligned with Sarawak's Post-2030 vision and will receive support and attention.

HSL has pledged to build one of the winning schemes, echoing its commitment after the Langit competition in 2021, and its earthbreaking as Langit Citadines Kuching in April 2025.

PAM and HSL are also exploring talks by AIR winners for university students. Some 200 guests—from public and private sectors, and top post-graduates from Universiti Malaysia Sarawak—attended the AIR Results Ceremony at HSL Tower.

For more information, visit hsl.com.my, airkch.com or search **#AirKch** on social media. 

PESTIGIOUS: The results ceremony was held on June 25.



1st

MOA ARCHITECTS

A groundbreaking scheme that celebrates Sarawak's identity through weaving cultural heritage and natural landscapes to create a cohesive and eye-catching urban landscape.

JURY CITATIONS

"A masterful scheme that integrates architecture with nature, creating a harmonious space that reflects Kuching's rich environmental diversity"

— **AR ADRIANTA AZIZ (AA)**

"A commendable scheme conceived in context of Sarawak's rich identity by weaving nature, culture, economy and modernity as an architectural solution"

— **DATO AR HAJEEDAR ABDUL MAJID (DH)**

"Bold and impressive scheme with strong cultural integration and a brave approach to challenge conventional masterplanning blurring the boundaries of architecture, urbanism and landscape"

— **AR TAN BEE EU (TBE)**

"The graceful sweeping green roof, blurring the physical built form and merges with the natural environment"

— **AR CHAI LONG SEN (CLS)**

"A gutsy masterplan presenting a series of terracing blocks with green roofs rising gradually within a weaving grid"

— **AR DAVID ONG (DO)**

"The striking green roof catches the eye from afar and the masterplanning offers a well designed mix of retail and residential components set within a business park"

— **MR TONY YU (TY)**

"A simple but bold concept. Beautiful if fully realised"

— **MR YU JI (YJ)**

2nd**AR AZWAN OTHMAN**

An innovative concept that respecting Sarawak's longhouse condition with modern architecture featuring elevated, adaptable spaces that blending with the natural setting.

JURY CITATIONS

"The proposal is inspired by Sarawak's longhouse which raises the building on stilts minimising its footprint and preserving the natural ecosystem" - **AA**

"An exciting modern, integral architectural solution set with 'least intervention' and due respect for preservation of the natural tropical setting" - **DH**

"A bold, unconventional approach which is both remarkable and polarising, demonstrating strong confidence in reimagining the traditional longhouse respecting the water and the natural landscape below" - **TBE**

"Touching the ground lightly with dwelling units between service cores creating a flexible, geometrical layout" - **CLS**

"An innovative approach to co-exist with nature, elevated from the natural ground in a geometrical network of interlocking hexagonal forms" - **DO**

"The proposal offers flexible spaces which shows simplicity and depth" - **TY**

"A beautiful scheme that grabs attention and promotes discussion. It touches the ground lightly and adopts prefabrication construction" - **YJ**

4th**LATERAL ARCHITECTS**

A brilliant proposal of "land bridges" allowing the river beneath the buildings to be almost untouched.

5th**QHAWARIZMI ARCHITECT**

A forward-thinking proposal on reducing carbon footprint, including the widest range of home dwelling options, from bungalows to studio apartments.

3rd**T.R.HAMZAH & YEANG & AKI MEDIA**

This eco green and sustainable proposal featuring elevated buildings, lush green connections and thoughtful preservation of natural resources, creating a model-city for the future.

JURY CITATIONS

"This iconic eco-green development blends sustainability and culture, establishing Kuching as a global model for nature based urban design" - **AA**

"An ecologically balanced and economically sustainable proposal to benefit and uplift the community" - **DH**

"The masterfully crafted scheme was immensely thorough in all aspects of a masterplan which focuses on river preservation that safe guards natural resources" - **TBE**

"The elevated eco-city with rooftop gardens connected to intermediate landscape gardens and descending on to the preserved natural environment" - **CLS**

"The scheme promotes living around the lush natural environment with connections to a 'hidden' natural oasis with good sustainability approach" - **DO**

"The proposal preserves more green spaces whilst maximising usable areas which shows mature architectural vision and thoughtful design" - **TY**

"This proposal is a masterful encapsulation of the brief by preserving the most nature. All buildings sit on a 10m platform above nature, and only along the perimeter" - **YJ**



HAPPY: The top 11 finalists in a group photo during the AIR Prize Giving Ceremony.

TOUR: HSL directors and architect showing Dr Sim (middle) a linear park within La Promenade's gated residences, where 17% of the land is landscaped greens.

Swk Gov Hails AIR Competition As *Model For Eco-Led Development*

Deputy Premier Datuk Amar Dr Sim Kui Hian Delivers Premier's Speech At Results And Prize-Giving Ceremony

Speaking on behalf of Premier Tan Sri Datuk Patinggi Abang Johari Tun Openg, Deputy Premier Datuk Amar Dr Sim Kui Hian today praised the AIR Masterplan Competition as "the development model my Government champions", uniting planners, architects, investors and the public around sustainable design.

Reading the Premier's prepared remarks to an audience of some 200 guests on Level 10 of HSL Tower, Dr Sim applauded organiser, Pertubuhan Akitek Malaysia (PAM), and sponsor HSL, for staging only the second national architecture competition ever held in East Malaysia.

"Each entry treats the river as a living corridor," the Premier's speech noted, adding that projects such as AIR "align with Sarawak's Post-2030 vision and will receive the authority's attention".

The guest-of-honour noted that all 11 shortlisted AIR entries were from firms headquartered in Kuala Lumpur. He said this showed national interests in Sarawak as a leading "design hub".

NATIONAL INTEREST IN KUCHING SITE

COMPETITION

"AIR — The AIR Above Us, Di Bawah AIR Mengalir"

BRIEF

Masterplan for a 13.5-acre site opposite Kuching International Airport

ENTRIES

127 registrants, 76 submissions; 11 shortlisted (all Kuala Lumpur practices, albeit one-third with Sarawakian roots)

JURY

Seven members, including the youngest and one of the most senior PAM Gold Medallists

1. **AR ADRIANTA AZIZ**
PAM President and Jury Chair
2. **DATO AR HAJEEDAR ABDUL MAJID**
PAM Gold Medalist 2012
3. **AR TAN BEE EU**
Award Winning Architect / Eminent Academician

4. **AR DAVID ONG**
PAM Sarawak Chapter Past Chairman
5. **AR CHAI LONG SEN**
Eminent Architect in Sarawak
6. **MR TONY YU**
HSL Executive Director
7. **MR YU JI**
HSL Realty Director

PRIZES

RM 250,000, fully funded by HSL

Earlier in the ceremony, convenor Ar Amzar described AIR as "Building with Nature", highlighting proposals that preserve the site's natural stream and mangrove forest. The competition follows Langit (launched 2021), HSL's first design contest, now under construction with Singapore's Ascott as Citadines Langit Kuching.

Dr Sim emphasised Sarawak's ambition for a high income, green and digital economy: "Architecture sits at the heart of that agenda. Competitions like AIR push our collective

imagination and help translate policy into projects on the ground."

He urged PAM, HSL and the wider design community to share the ideas publicly through exhibitions and university talks, ensuring the learning extends beyond today's awards.

For further information, visit airkch.com, hsl.com.my or search #AirKch on social media.

What's Next For AIR?

With The Results Ceremony Over, The Hard Work Now Begins

H

History is instructive. To see what lies ahead for AIR, it helps to look back at Langit, HSL's first architecture competition.

The brief

Just like Langit, AIR is a privately funded project that must include public spaces. At Langit the central staircase serves as a meeting spot; at AIR we plan to weave parks and the natural stream into the commercial scheme.

The road after a competition

Running the contest was the easy part. We wrote a brief for the 13.5-acre site and let teams present ideas. Now we're re-interviewing all prize-winners to see how their concepts work in the real world.

For Langit, this second round of talks led us to choose the third-placed team, MOA Architects, because their twin-tower design suited HSL and The Ascott Limited's goals: one tower for a hotel, the other for condominiums, with retail on the lower floors and a grand staircase linking them.

Five strong ideas for AIR

The AIR brief asked for eco-friendly design and sound business sense. Each of the top five entries met that brief in a different way:

MOA Architects

A huge green roof that could be the largest in Malaysia.

Ar Azwan Othman

A prefabricated system that keeps site disturbance low.

TR Hamzah & Yeang with Aki Media

Buildings on stilts along the edges, leaving 76 % of the land — and the stream — untouched.

Lateral Design

All buildings on stilts, even across parts of the river.

Qhawarizmi Architect

A single large structure powered by hydrogen.

HSL's managing director, Datuk Paul Yu Chee Hoe commented about the top five: "We've received some amazing ideas for AIR. Our aim is to marry conservation and commerce. It can be done — the public at large should always benefit from private developments.



SIGNATURE: Dr Sim signing a winners' board, which will be displayed as a memento at HSL lobby.

"Each of the top five have their own merits. We'll take time to develop these ideas with them. There's plenty of problem solving to do as well."

How long will it take?

Langit spent two years in design development and another two years in approvals. AIR is larger and more complex, so a similar — or longer — timescale is likely.

Key questions ahead:

- Do we start with apartments or with commercial space?

- How do we build the government-mandated detention ponds yet keep as much of the stream as possible?
- Which construction method best balances cost, speed and sustainability?

Answering these will involve architects, engineers and regulators working closely together.

Commitment to the winning vision

HSL is committed to building one of the winning schemes as faithfully as

possible. The AIR competition showed what the site could be; the next phase turns that vision into detailed plans, budgets and, eventually, construction on the ground.

"AIR — The AIR Above Us, Di Bawah AIR Mengalir" — promises to be as challenging as it is exciting. The ceremony may be over, but the real journey has only just begun. ■



SITE: Aerial shot of 13.5-acre piece of land opposite Kuching airport.

DISCUSSION: A moment of recognition as jurors, top three winners, and the media gathering together for an insightful press conference.



SPEECH—GUEST OF HONOUR

AIR Prize-Giving Ceremony

SARAWAK PREMIER

The Right Honourable Datuk Patinggi Tan Sri (Dr) Abang Haji Abdul Rahman Zohari bin Tun Datuk Abang Haji Openg



EMPOWERING: Dr Sim delivering an inspiring speech at the prize-giving ceremony, marking the beginning of a new chapter in the architecture competition.

SELAMAT pagi, salam sejahtera, and a very good morning.

Yang Berbahagia President and council members of the Malaysian Institute of Architects (PAM); Members of the AIR organising committee and distinguished jurors; Board members and senior management of HSL;

Architects, planners, students, members of the media, ladies and gentlemen.

To our friends from Peninsular Malaysia and overseas, welcome to Kuching — a city famed not only for its riverfront and gardens, but above all for the warmth of its people.

It is a pleasure to host you here in Sarawak's capital for what is now the second national architecture competition ever held in East Malaysia.

CELEBRATING PARTNERSHIP AND PURPOSE

Competitions of this calibre do not happen by accident. They require energy, expertise and, crucially, trust among partners. I therefore commend HSL for taking the courageous step of sponsoring AIR and, more importantly, for pledging to build one of the winning schemes.

That commitment turns ideas into reality and underlines HSL's reputation as a forward-thinking, professionally led and responsible developer-constructor.

I equally applaud PAM for providing the professional rigour that gives this competition its credibility. Langit — the first contest in 2021 — showed what such collaboration can achieve; AIR takes that spirit a step further, demonstrating that Sarawak is an open platform for bold design thinking.

A MODEL THAT FITS SARAWAK'S ASPIRATIONS

This competition exemplifies the development model my Government champions: one that unites planners, architects, investors and, most importantly, the public. The shortlisted proposals remind us that when these voices work together, we generate solutions that respect heritage, serve daily life and position us for the future.

As the convenor observed, each entry stands on its own merit, yet they share a common instinct: to treat the river not as an obstacle but as a living corridor. That ethos resonates deeply with us in Sarawak, where rivers have been arteries of trade, culture and community for centuries.

Syabas to every team for capturing that insight.

"PROJECT AIR" — HONOURING LAND, WATER AND SKY

"Project AIR: The AIR above us, di bawah AIR mengalir." This simple phrase distils Sarawak's long tradition of living in harmony with nature — from longhouses upriver to the shophouses of the Nanyang style that line old Kuching.

Great cities grow from great rivers, whether in Kuala Lumpur or here at Kuching.

Equally heartening is the human-centred emphasis in every submission. Cities are ultimately judged not by skylines but by the happiness and health of their citizens: Are we active? Are there places to meet and mingle? Do we feel rooted?

Your proposals address these questions first, and only then the ringgit-and-sen. That, too, is refreshing.

ALIGNING WITH SARAWAK'S POST-2030 VISION

Ladies and gentlemen, the Sarawak Government's Post-COVID-19 Development Strategy 2030 charts a path towards a high-income, green and digital economy powered by talent and creativity.

Architecture sits at the heart of that agenda. We seek buildings and neighbourhoods that nurture biodiversity, embrace smart technology and, above all, put people first. Competitions like AIR push our collective imagination and help translate policy into projects on the ground.

Accordingly, my Government will continue to support developments that demonstrate sustainability, inclusivity and innovation — so that the built environment keeps pace with our ambitions.

GRATITUDE TO JURORS AND PARTICIPANTS

To our jurors — both the experienced and youth, from Sarawak, Kuala Lumpur and Penang — terima kasih for the diligence you brought to this task.

I understand your journey involved months of virtual deliberations, site walks in the heat and even a fair share of laksa and midin fern.

Your thoroughness ensures that today's result commands respect.

To the finalists gathered here: while one team will take home the first prize, every entry has advanced the national conversation on how waterfront neighbourhoods can be designed.

I urge HSL, PAM and the wider design community to share these ideas beyond this room — through public exhibitions, online forums and academic studios. The learning should not stop with the award photos this morning.

A WORD TO THE WINNERS — AND THE REST

To the winning architects: may your concept now face the rigour of construction without losing its poetry.

The journey from drawing board to site demands patience, ingenuity and close collaboration with engineers and contractors. My Government stands ready to facilitate where regulation or infrastructure is concerned.

To the runners-up and participants who fell short by only a few points: please keep challenging us.

I am pleased to hear that HSL intends, once again, to re-interview all winners and even those highly commended — just as it did with Langit, where the final building emerged from the scheme originally placed third. That openness to talent wherever it may be found is commendable.

LOOKING FORWARD

Friends, architecture is often called the "mother of all arts" because it is the stage for life. "The AIR Above Us, Di Bawah AIR Mengalir."

When we design well, we create not merely handsome façades but healthier, happier communities. When we build responsibly, we honour our rivers, our forests and the generations yet to come.

Today, as we celebrate the triumph of creativity and collaboration, let us also rededicate ourselves to the larger task: crafting a Sarawak that is sustainable, inclusive and proudly rooted — a Sarawak where opportunity flows, just like the river.

Sekian, terima kasih, and congratulations to everyone. May you enjoy an inspiring morning — and, I daresay, the real winners will ultimately be the people who live, work and play in the neighbourhoods we dare to imagine today.

I'll see you next at the earth breaking [laughs]. Thank you. 🙏

Citadines Langit Kuching *Breaks Ground*

Ascott And HSL Assemble An International Team
of Designers For Highly Anticipated High-Rise

Construction has commenced on one of East Malaysia's most eagerly awaited high-rise projects, *Citadines Langit Kuching*.

Developer HSL recently broke ground on the project, beginning with a two-storey basement. This will be followed by a three-storey public plaza featuring commercial spaces, alongside Tower A (comprising 64 luxury condominiums) and Tower B (housing 220 fifth-generation Citadines units).

Once completed, the twin towers will rise to 108 metres, or 28 levels, linked by two "floating" clubhouse floors on Levels 4 and 15, each exclusively for condo residents and hotel guests.

A grand staircase will anchor the lower three floors — with lush landscaping by Singapore's Salad Dressing — offering one of Kuching's few privately-owned public spaces. The developer intends to activate this area with children's playgrounds, concerts and art installations.

HSL is aiming for completion in 48 months.

HSL and its Singaporean partner, The Ascott Limited—wholly owned by CapitaLand Investment Limited—have put together an international team of distinguished designers for Citadines Langit Kuching.

Among them are Light Collab, the lighting consultant behind the Singapore Pavilion at

Continues on Pg.35



1. GREEN: Singapore's Salad Dressing designing all the green areas in Langit, including the clubhouse floors and grand staircase.

2. PUBLIC: A grand public staircase is a key feature of Langit Citadines. This civic space was one of the highlights of this 2021 architecture competition winning entry.

3. EXPERTISE: The project team including specialists for lighting and landscaping by Singaporeans.

4. INTERIOR: Ascott will incorporate Kuching and Sarawak into their designs. These early drafts showing Dayak motifs and Kuching's map.



INAUGURAL: Wee officiating the Langit Earth Breaking Ceremony on April 25.



LANDMARK: Construction has begun on the 28-level, twin towers of Citadines Langit Kuching.



Q&A: Mecja (third left) speaking to the media about the upcoming project.

From Pg.32

World Expo 2020, Park Royal Collection Marina Bay, and Books Kinokuniya Abu Dhabi; and Salad Dressing, a landscape architecture firm headed by Malaysians practising in Singapore, best known for projects such as Jurong Lake Garden, Aman Tokyo, and resorts in the Maldives.

"Langit is a teamwork between some of Malaysia's and Singapore's brightest talents. Some of the foreign designers are Sarawakians working abroad, and Langit is their first project back in East Malaysia. As a Sarawakian builder, I am immensely proud," HSL Managing Director Datuk Paul Yu Chee Hoe said.

"From the outset in 2022—when Langit was launched as an architectural competition—we have championed 'reaching for greater heights together', and this team embodies this philosophy," Yu added.

According to Ascott's Malaysia General Manager, Mondy Mecja, Langit is set to become the benchmark for all Citadines properties in Malaysia. He highlighted that Ascott's own design department is spearheading the hotel interiors for Langit.

"Langit is a priority project for us," Mecja said. "We stepped in in 2022 after the competition results were announced, and I personally advocated for our in-house interior design team to lead on the interiors. Sarawak is a beautiful part of Malaysia, and there is so much to draw from and to showcase.

Mecja said the Citadines portion of Langit is expected to create around 100 jobs, while HSL estimated the project's additional commercial spaces would generate another 60 positions, particularly in the food and beverage sector.

"Tourism is one of the best job creators, as it engages all strata of society—from housekeeping to tour guiding and management. Even at this construction stage, there are benefits to the supply chain. Whenever

possible, we use local materials and contractors," Yu said.

Langit's architecture is contemporary and tropical, featuring facade screens inspired by Dayak culture. Its landscaping—extensive and to be maintained by HSL, known for its commitment to greenery—draws upon Borneo's rainforests.



WELCOME: Wee (second right) arriving at the site at Jalan Tabuan, Kuching.



LOCATION: Langit is at Kuching city centre near the waterfront and shopping malls with great views of the city and the sea.



ENGINEERING: The guide walls for the two-storey basement's piles.

During the media tour, the project team also highlighted HSL and Ascott's commitment to achieving Green Building Index (GBI) certification.

Lead architect, Ar David Ong, said the 28-level twin structures would be among the region's most energy-efficient high-rises.

"Langit benefits from excellent site orientation, with minimal direct sunlight. We have incorporated screens to shield occupants from heat while maximising natural light and ventilation," Ong explained.

"As this is a high-tech development, the Citadines component will incorporate an advanced building management system. Condominium residents, meanwhile, will enjoy double-glazed windows as standard."

Ong praised HSL for prioritising public areas:

"Many developments use buzzwords like 'placemaking', but it is often easier said than done. HSL is devoting its own funds to create public spaces on the lower three floors. It's an idealistic move that echoes some of the most civic-minded high-rises, like Lever House in New York."

HSL will open sales of Langit condos in late 2026. Like the Jigsaw condos opposite Kuching Airport, HSL will establish a Langit sales gallery at La Promenade Mall.

Prices are expected to average RM1,000 per square foot for the 64 condominiums.

For more info, visit hsl.com.my, langitkch.com, or search #LangitKch on social media. 

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NEW UNITS

The Herald

Before Living Moments

Throwback To HSL's Original Newsletter

Every issue of *Living Moments*, we end with a throwback to Hock Seng Lee's original newsletter. The Herald began in 1996 and was for in-house circulation.

Edited by Sonja Gan, the then HSL corporate affairs director, the newsletter is a treasure trove of memories and milestones.

This edition's #throwback is to the 12th-issue, published in May-Sept 1998. These articles bring back sweet memories. 📖

The Republic of Sudan

- At A Glance -

Capital: Khartoum (pop. estimated 4 - 5 million)

Total Population: Estimated at 27 million (1989) comprising mostly Arabs in the north and black Africans in the south as well as many tribal groups.

Land area: 2,505,813 sq km (making it the largest country by area in Africa and tenth largest in the world)

Climate: The north has a desert climate being hot and dry with little rainfall. The region is prone to severe dust storms called haboobs. It is a little cooler in the central region with some rainfall while southern Sudan is tropical with high rainfall.

Language: Officially Arabic, with English widely spoken and understood. Many other African languages also spoken.

Government: Following a military coup in 1989, national control is by a 15-member Revolutionary Council which dissolved the National Assembly and disposed its PM.

Head of State: Lt. Gen. Omar Hassan Ahmed Al-Bashir

Religion: 73% Sunni Muslims in the north. Islamic culture is strong in the northern two-thirds of the country (borders with Egypt). In the south, 17% follow tribal religions while the remainder are Christian, mostly Roman Catholic.

Transport: Most of the 50,000 kms of road in Sudan are dirt tracks in poor condition. Buses, lorries and pick-up trucks (called "boxes" by the locals) are the main forms of transport. Many locals travel by camel or donkey.

Economy: The Sudan's economy is mostly agricultural and pastoral with about 65% of the population making a living through crop growing or animal grazing (cattle). The Sudan has rich reserves of oil and minerals that are largely untapped.

Oh, to be a HSL spouse

There is a saying that behind every great man there has to be a great woman. And in a politically correct, gender equal world, the reverse must be true too. Thus, behind many a hard working HSL staff member there may well be an unheralded long suffering spouse. While we admire the long hours put in and the quality work produced by our super staff, HH gives a salute to the support teams behind the people we see everyday: their family and loved ones.

HH discovered from spouses of senior staff, that it can be a case of being on call around the clock. "I'm not joking," the wife of one manager told HH, "his hand phone has to be on 24 hours a day in case of any emergency happening."

"Sunday is supposed to be the day he spends with the family," the wife of another manager moaned, "but nowadays we're lucky if he takes us to church in the morning. By the afternoon, he's at the computer or gone to the site."

And it's not only wives with complaints, one HSL hubby told HH that he had fed his baby and put him to sleep several times when his wife was stuck in the office at late meetings. (Ed: so he should!)

"Sometimes I hope for some help in getting the children ready for school, but either my husband has left for work by 7am, or he can't

wake up because he came home from work so late," HH is told by one frazzled Mum.

"Friday and Saturday nights used to be for family dinners or outings," another HSL wife explained, "however, my husband is often called away to meetings which go on forever!"

One Manager's wife said she goes to bed each night listening to complaints about impossible deadlines, staffing crisis and requests for reminders.

An average pillow talk for the wife of a Manager (shipping division) may go like this: "So and so didn't turn-up; the boss wanted a ship at X, but there was no way we could make it in time; loading has to be done tonight, but there's an engine breakdown; Captain A has to attend a funeral and we need a replacement; remind me to pick-up Mr Y at the airport tomorrow, 7am; we still haven't hit sand, the dredger is just getting mud - DAMN..."

Directors' wives lament the eleventh hour calls that go like this: "I have a flight it half an hour. Can you pack a few things, charge extra phone batteries, get me a tie, iron a good shirt, I'm running late... I need a lift to the airport...Anything to eat? Etc."

There is little doubt from HH's survey that working for HSL requires an inordinate amount of commitment and the Directors (all mad workaholics themselves) know how lucky they are to have such a loyal staff who are honoured to work for Sarawak's greatest group of companies.

Keep up the hard work and thanks to all the loving families who lend their support and contribute in their own way to making HSL number one.

Need help with your computer?

It seems your not the only one. Below are real enquiries received by computer technicians/support telephone lines. These humorous episodes in computer-user support are bound to become "Urban Legends" - with the exception that these tales are definitely true!

1. An AST technical support had a caller complaining that "her mouse was hard to control with the dust cover on". The "dust cover" turned out to be the plastic bag the mouse was packaged in!
2. A Compaq technician received a call from a man complaining that the system failed to read word

processing files from his old floppy diskettes. After trouble-shooting for magnets and heat failed to diagnose the problem, it was found out that the customer had placed adhesive labels on the diskettes, then rolled the diskettes into the typewriter to type the labels!

3. A Dell technician advised his customer to put his troubled floppy back in the drive and close the door. The customer asked the tech to hold on, and was heard putting the phone down, getting up and crossing the room to close the door to his room!

4. Yet another Dell tech got a call from a customer complaining that his keyboard no longer worked. He had cleaned it by filling up his tub with soap and water and soaking the keyboard for a day, then removing all the keys and washing them individually!!

5. A confused caller to IBM was having trouble printing documents. He told the technician that the computer had said it "couldn't find printer". The user had also tried turning the computer screen to face the printer - but said that his computer still couldn't "see" the printer!!!

HSL THE HSL HERALD

May - September 1998

"No mention shall be made of coral, or of pearls; for the price of wisdom is above rubies"

For HSL Staff Only Issue 12

Your Newsletter

Well, it has been a long time between drinks as they say Down Under, but JH is back!

Many of you have asked if the HSL Herald is still in publication or not. Well, the answer is in your hands right now. Your interest has inspired us to push on. We only hope that this enthusiasm will translate to more articles from YOU!

JH relies partly on fresh contributions from our readers (and also on whether our computer man is sufficiently encouraged to do his stuff).

In this issue we headline the HSLB's AGM while new business ventures overseas have brought HSLC to Africa!

We also survey the laments of long suffering HSL spouses in an article many of you may relate to. Take this copy home to your spouse!

The year is zooming past and in spite of predictions of gloom and doom, we are all very much alive and kicking.

The Directors are still working over overtime to secure bigger and better things. The mood is one of cautious optimism.

We hope to delight you with the usual mix of information and entertainment including all your favourite regular columns so read on...

EDITOR
Sonja Gan
GRAPHICS/LAYOUT
SUGGESTIONS
THIS ISSUE'S CONTRIBUTORS
YII CHEE HONG,
JAMES HA

Computers -vs- Cars

At a recent computer expo (COMDEX), The king of the Microsoft empire, the richest man on planet Earth - over USD 50 Billion at the last count and getting richer every minute - Bill Gates compared the computer industry with the auto industry and stated, "If GM (General Motors) had kept up with technology like the computer industry has, we would all be driving \$25 cars that go 1000 miles/gallon."

Recently, General Motors addressed this comment by releasing the following statement:

"Yes, but would you want your car to crash twice a day?"

He further noted that if the comparison were taken further:

1. Every time they repainted the lines on the road, you would have to buy a new car.

2. Occasionally, your car would die on the freeway for no reason, and you would just accept this, restart and drive on.

3. Occasionally, executing a maneuver would cause your car to stop and fail, and you would have to re-install the engine. For some strange reason, you would accept this too.

4. You could only have one person in the car at a time, unless you bought "Car95" or "CarNT." But then, you would have to buy more seats.

5. Macintosh would make a car that was powered by the sun, was reliable, five times as fast, twice as easy to drive, but would only run on 5% of the roads.

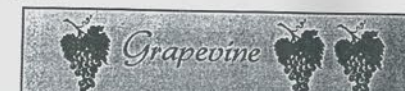
6. The Macintosh car owners would get expensive Microsoft upgrades to their cars, which would make their cars run much slower.

7. The oil, gas and alternator warning lights would be replaced by a single "general car default" warning light.

8. New seats would force everyone to have the same size butt.

9. The airbag system would say, "are you sure?" before going off.

10. If you were involved in a crash, you would have no idea what happened.



The rush on baby news seems to have subsided and we don't see any bulging bellies right now. Anyone got a secret to tell??

The only bundle of joy we've heard about lately is Lili Wong's - a HSLM workshop staff member. Congrats!

As for Grapevine's monitoring of cupid's arrow... Newish liaisons include a report of a HSLM fellow and PYT staff member. Meanwhile, budding "in-house" romances previously alluded to in Grapevine appear to be blooming. Our hounds report numerous sightings of "friendly" staff couples on outings in Kuching. There is even talk of house plans so things may be getting serious. We are still waiting for our first "HSL-HSL" wedding.

Speaking of weddings we are pleased to announce the marriage of our Office Assistant Talib. Congratulations!



Senior QS, James Ha was a delegate at the recent BIMF-EAGA meeting in Brunei. James was on hand to greet visitors at a Mini-exhibition of our Building Materials / Heavy Machinery with PYT's Patrick Yli (who took this photograph).



The Ground Breaking Ceremony for the Construction and Completion of the Kuching Bypass Road (Sector A) and Temendak-Sin Heck Road (Sector B), Sarawak Division. This is a RM6.8 million project being undertaken for JKR. Our guys in charge are William Lee and Balu.

THE HSL HERALD

For HSL Staff Only Issue 11

chairman

Berhad is honoured to have a well-known grace our Board of Directors. Our new distinguished former Sarawak Deputy State 997), Y Bng Datuk Haji Mohd. Taha held state civil service posts for 19 mature retirement last year and is now had of prestigious corporate and

int personality, this articulate and the legal profession. He obtained his from Leeds University, UK and was Temple, London) in 1973. He has e for Management Development ness School, USA.

day he entered the civil service secretary Mdm Kueh who spoke says she really enjoys working s of loyalty to prove it).

d fair person who never people's background," Mdm tion of her long-time boss.

ik Taha juggle his vast being our new Chairman, i Utama Berhad and two

Continued on back page

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