PBES1100 RESEARCH
- Progress Report Semester 1 2016/2017-

Accessible Built Environment through Universal Design in Malaysia: Legislation and Implementation

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Introduction

• The ageing and disabled population in Asia and the Pacific region is increasing rapidly and with the addition of the population of 65 years and above is showing a high percentage by 2030 as the result of the baby boomers generation is aging and having longer life span.

• If the government and private sectors in Malaysia are not prepared to facilitate their infrastructure with accessible good facilities for the Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) and the elderly, buildings for various use at public facilities, recreational and tourist spots, and public infrastructure, eventually those effected will lose their opportunity to have a better quality of life, work opportunity and others which abled bodies should enjoy their lives and at the same time compliments all other users regardless of age and ability.
Introduction

Asian countries in the Asia Pacific region are members of the United Nation Economic and Social Commission of Asia Pacific (UNESCAP)

Malaysia has signed Proclamation of the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, 1993-2002 (1st decade), which are embraced in the United Nation Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD)

The continuation for the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, 2nd decade 2003 – 2012

Biwako Millennium Framework for Action Towards an Inclusive, Barrier-Free and Rights-Based Society for Persons with Disabilities in Asia and the Pacific


The ‘Incheon Strategy’ to “Make the Right Real” for Persons with Disabilities in Asia and the Pacific

The Incheon Strategy outlined 10 goals, 27 target and 62 indicators but only on Goal no. 3 that enhances access to the physical environment, and public transportation besides knowledge, information and communication

Malaysia is currently adopting the ‘Incheon Strategy’ to “Make the Right Real” for PwDs in implementing relevant national laws and legislations.

(Rahim, Samad, & Rahim, 2015; Takayama Declaration on the Development of Communities-for-All in Asia and the Pacific, 2009, Incheon Strategy to “Make the Right Real”, 2014)
Background of Problem

- Accessibility of built environment in Malaysia has been an ongoing issue as the implementation and enforcement of Acts and Policies related to creating access for Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) and elderly are not well integrated and implemented by Local Government in Government buildings, Public spaces and buildings, connectivity of public infrastructures and amenities.

- Initiatives and strategies such as promoting awareness to the public, develop policy and action plan for PwDs, government’s design guidelines and Malaysian Standards of minimum design requirements has been developed since 1990 and 2008, but the impact to the society and the physical environment has not much improved despite of the massive urban development happening in Major cities in Malaysia.

- In preparing for an ‘Aging Society’ as statistics shows that Malaysian citizen aged 60+ will be 10.6% in 2020 and also cater for the increasing numbers of PwDs and also to encourage ‘Accessible Tourism’ in boosting Malaysian economics through tourism.
Statement of Problem

• Barriers and obstructions were caused by indiscipline habits and ignorance of rules as well as regulations. This presents that socio-political culture and attitude, as well as practices of the local authorized actors are vital factors obstructing the implementation of accessible facilities in public area (Imrie, 2000).

• Social discrimination and society mentality of welfare and sympathy as well as the lack of understanding on the provisions of accessible design according to the needs and specification of PwDs among authority officers impacts the implementation.

• It is particularly important to take into consideration that almost all abilities deteriorate at the same time as people growing older. Coping strategies that will work for PwDs might not be effective but to emphasize that Universal Design are intended to benefit a wider range of users (Kose S., 2014).

• Accessibility in the built environment in line with Universal Design principles to determine the minimum design requirements for PwDs. What are further measures that can be done to enhance accessibility and connectivity for the physical environment?
Research Objectives

• To identify and distinguish the legislations related to Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) and their accessibility in the built environment in Malaysia?

• To investigate implementation framework of other countries that has regulated their legislation act, government policies, standards as well as design guidelines and how they overcome occurring problems and enforcements.

• To formulate a framework recommendation on implementation measures focusing on accessibility and connectivity in the built environment.
Research Questions

• What are the available legislations related to Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) and Elderly regarding provision of accessibility in the built environment in Malaysia and how can it further improve its implementation?

• How implementation framework of other countries that has regulated their legislation act, government policies, standards as well as design guidelines could be adopted in Malaysia?

• How developed countries overcome occurring problems and enforce it for achieving accessible physical built environment and does their approach effects other economic aspect for their country?

• Does awareness, understanding and knowledge of Universal Design and it applications affects to its designs and implementation measures focusing on accessibility and connectivity in the built environment by professionals and authorities in the construction industry?

• Is there any available local framework or implementation model that has been implemented and enforced for accessibility and connectivity provision and how is the rating for the successful implementation?
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| 1. To identify and distinguish the legislations related to Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) and their accessibility in the built environment in Malaysia? | 1. What are the available legislations related to Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) and Elderly regarding provision of accessibility in the built environment in Malaysia and how can it further improve its implementation? | Document review  
-Acts and policy  
-Master plan and Action plan  
-Standards and code of practice  
-gov reports  
-design guidelines | Talk and seminar documents of governmen t officers                                                                 | Qualitative         |
## Research Objectives

1. To investigate implementation framework of other countries that has regulated their legislation act, government policies, standards as well as design guidelines and how they overcome occurring problems and enforcements.

## Research Questions

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### Research Objectives

1. To formulate a framework recommendation on implementation measures focusing on accessibility and connectivity in the built environment.

2. Does awareness, understanding and knowledge of Universal Design and its applications affect its designs and implementation measures focusing on accessibility and connectivity in the built environment by professionals and authorities in the construction industry?

3. Is there any available local framework or implementation model that has been implemented and enforced for accessibility and connectivity provision and how is the rating for the successful implementation?

### Research Questions

1. Does awareness, understanding and knowledge of Universal Design and its applications affect its designs and implementation measures focusing on accessibility and connectivity in the built environment by professionals and authorities in the construction industry?

2. Is there any available local framework or implementation model that has been implemented and enforced for accessibility and connectivity provision and how is the rating for the successful implementation?

### Instruments

- Questionnaires / survey
- Semi-structures in-depth interview of experts
- Video and audio presentation

### Sample

- Stratafied sampling – All officers in at Building Department at all LA.
- 5 experts of specific related topics
- 2 officers in charge at Building Department at each identified Local Authorities (PBT)(estimated 4 Local Authority)

### Data Analysis

- Quantitative – SPSS
- Qualitative - Thematic
Scope and Limitation

• **Scope:** The research will focus on legislative documents and experts views only related to accessibility and also connectivity aspect for the Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) in the physical built environment.

• **Limitation:**
  - The category of PwDs will be focus on are Physical Disabilities and Vision impaired / the blind as they are mostly effected by the barriers within the physical built environment.
  - By definition, Universal Design is “the design of products and environments to be usable by all people, to the greatest extent possible, without the need for adaptation or specialized design”, so focusing only the design aspect of environment will be in relation to this research.
  - Furthermore, the building typology that will be discussed are inclusive of all building typology in the list within the Uniform Building By-Laws (UBBL) but will eliminate transportation facilities and heritage buildings as these building typology relates to other issues in terms of cultural and economic consideration.
Literature Review

- Attachment
Research Methodology

• Conduct interviews of implementers at Ministry / Local Authorities and Government officer related.

• Video and audio recording of expert presentations

• Surveys distributed to officers in charge of approving building plans at One-stop-centre (OSC) submission centre / Building Department, e.g. architects, assistant architects, planners and technical personnel.

• Observation of awareness programme done for the NGOs and the public
Title: A Review of Universal Design and Accessibility Legislations, Strategies and Initiatives among Asian Countries

Problem statement:

• Accessibility legislation between developed and developing countries in Asian and the Pacific region has different success rate when it comes to implementing and enforcing Universal Design through legislative and regulatory documents, government initiatives and planning approach. Focusing on two developed country in Asian and the pacific region that is Japan and Singapore, whilst the other two are developing Asian countries, namely Thailand and Malaysia respectively where this paper reviews its legislation, their strategies and initiative of implementing Universal Design approach to achieve accessible built environment for their country.

• The predominant reason of all four countries were selected are that these countries has recognized and rectify the Proclamation of the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, 1993-2002, and when United States releases the enactment of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) in July 1990 where the rights of persons with disabilities (PwDs) were recognize as equal to others started a remarkable move and great milestone at the international scene as well as Asia and the Pacific for awareness and advocacy need for equitable environments and full user participation by all in Asia (Kose, 2010; Parker, 2001) and the selections of countries shall be compared to their economic achievements status of developed and developing country.
Research Objectives:

• The objective of this paper is to distinguish the existing legislative and regulatory documents chronologically as well as the selected Asian country’s national strategies and government initiative to implement Universal Design approach in creating an accessible built environment for all not only designing for the needs of persons with disabilities (PwD) and elderly.
Review Paper – Literature Review

• Literature Review
  • Statistics of Persons with Disabilities and Aging Population
  • Trends of Accessibility Provisions in the Built Environment
  • Evolution of Terminology in Asian Countries
    • Universal Design, Accessibility and Persons with Disabilities (PwDs)
  • Chronology of Legislations
Thank you