

PAM Participation in Overcoming COVID-19 Pandemic Challenges to the Architecture Profession

We are now living in unprecedented times of a global pandemic due to COVID-19. The government recognizes the challenges faced by individuals, businesses and the economy at large. They have engaged PAM in many meetings and discussions where PAM was represented by President Ar. Lillian Tay where she was able to highlight our concerns and proposals from the first meeting with EAC (Economic Action Council Meeting) on Monday 20th March 2020 which have been gradually included into the government blueprint.

A special working committee was set up to tackle these proposals drawing from the POP (Promotion of The Profession) SOMF and Research and Futures Committees with representation from Chapter Chairpersons to address issues that not only concern Architects in Peninsula Malaysia but also those practicing in Sabah and Sarawak.

Listed are all of the meetings that PAM President attended as well as the proposals that were submitted during the MCO and CMCO period. In response to the latest PRIHATIN SME+ Economic Stimulus Package, President Ar Lillian Tay of PAM issued a press release highlighting additional short and long-term measures to be taken by the government to assist struggling professional services firms. The media has since brought the concerns to the public in various news reports. Not only is PAM actively involved in the advancement of architects' technical practices, but also for the betterment of society.

Some programmes proposed by PAM for the short and medium term of RMK-12 were accepted by the Government to be implemented through budget 2021.

Our proposals for the COVID-19 Temporary Bill will assist the government in locking in the procedures immediately should a similar pandemic occur in the future.

The various proposals and submission were discussed, dissected, formatted and re-submitted on several occasions to assist the government in recognising Architects' challenges during current and post MCO. We thank all members for responding to the survey conducted between 6 -10 May 2020 – the results of which built a compelling case for our proposals. PAM is appreciative of the diligence that our Ministers and Civil Servants of EAC, MITI (Ministry of International Trade and Industry), MOF (Ministry of Finance) and MPC (Malaysia Productivity Centre) have shown during the deliberations in understanding our issues.