



Lee's all for education

By Abby Lu

"The green movement is a convergence of two different schools," says Pertubuhan Akitek Malaysia (PAM) president Lee Chor Wah, inferring sustainability is not only championed by lefty tree huggers but is also a prominent agenda of governments and corporations.

The University of New South Wales alumnus is board chairman of the Green Building Index (GBI) Accreditation Panel, responsible for, among others, reviewing and awarding the GBI rating to qualified projects.

NST Property picks his brain on this worldwide movement:

Roadblocks to building green in Malaysia?

It's merely a matter of understanding. The lack of knowledge has resulted in a lot of uncertainties. The key is education to enable people to recognise that it's really quite simple.

What else do we look into to live sustainably?

A green building is merely a portion of it; there are other areas too. For example, people may live or work in green buildings but if they drive gas guzzlers 10km to work every day, that offsets the carbon emissions which they've reduced.

There are too many excesses in our life right now. After efficiency, we should promote sufficiency, and make people realise that small is beautiful.



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How are green buildings more attractive?

Merits include significant improvement in air quality and reduced energy consumption. They also make attractive investments as they can be sold or leased at a premium.

From a developer's perspective, benefits include having additional plot ratio. Also, if you look at some of the green buildings still under construction, they've been tenanted in advance.

Lee is a senior practising architect and director/CEO of SN Low & Associates Chartered Architects and a protem member of the Malaysian Green Building Council. He was with Philip Cox in Sydney, Australia, before he returned to Malaysia in the early 1990s. He was editor-in-chief of Architecture Malaysia, Architecture Asia and the journal for Architects Regional Council, Asia (ARCASIA).