



**MALAYSIA
COUNTRY REPORT**

**The 45th ARCASIA COUNCIL MEETING
and 21ST ASIAN CONGRESS OF ARCHITECTS
INCHEON, KOREA**

8 – 12 SEPTEMBER 2025

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1. HISTORY OF THE INSTITUTE

Pertubuhan Akitek Malaysia (PAM) — Malaysian Institute of Architects — is the national professional institute representing architects in Malaysia. Founded in 1923 as the Institute of Architects Malaya, its name was changed in 1948 to the Federation of Malaya Society of Architects (FMSA), then allied to the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA). Another change to its current name to reflect national sovereignty came about on 20th January, 1967 when PAM was registered with the Registrar of Societies.

The primary objective of the Institute is for “The advancement and elevation of Architecture and the various arts and sciences connected therewith.” The Institute provides a framework for its members to operate effectively: to do, to run and to get the business of Architecture within the Code of Conduct and Scale of Fees.

The Institute is managed by an elected Council consisting of a President, Deputy President, Vice President, Honorary Secretary, Honorary Treasurer and 13 Council Members. Also, in Council are the Immediate Past President, up to 4 nominated Past Presidents, 3 nominated Council Members (Non-Corporate Member) and 5 elected representatives from the Chapters.

2. CURRENT OFFICE BEARERS

Term of Office	2025 – 2026
President	Ar. Adrianta bin Aziz
Deputy President	Ar. Dexter Koh Yew Peng
Vice President	Ar. Norzaini bin Mufti @ Ahmat
Honorary Secretary	Ar. Anthony Lee Tee
Honorary Treasurer	Ar. David Teoh Wui Leng

3. CURRENT MEMBERSHIP STRENGTH

Categories of Membership:

CATEGORIES	QUALIFICATIONS	ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP AS OF JULY 2025	ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION 2025
Ordinary	Any person who has obtained the architectural qualification from schools recognized by the Institute and has passed the Professional Practice and Practical Experience Part 3 Examination.	1,978	RM500.00 (65 years old and below) RM125.00 (Overseas) RM300.00 (above 65 years old) RM 250.00 (Government Officer 65 years old and below) RM 150.00 (Government Officer above 65 years old) RM250.00 (Overseas Government Officer) Free (above 80 years old)
Fellow	Any person who has been a Corporate Member for not less than 20 years, of good standing and who has contributed to the works of the Institute, or the profession or the industry, may apply or be recommended for the Fellowship of the Institute.	91	RM500.00 (65 years old and below) RM250.00 (Overseas) RM300.00 (above 65 years old) RM250.00 (Government Officer 65 years old and below) RM150.00 (Government Officer above 65 years old) RM250.00 (Overseas Government Officer) Free (above 80 years old)
Retired	Any ordinary Member who has attained the age of 60 years, and who has voluntarily retired from practice and ceased to be registered with the Board of Architects Malaysia shall, upon request by the prescribed form as per Byelaws and subject to approval of Council, be eligible for the rights and privileges which this Constitution and the Bye-laws may prescribe or allow.	3	RM250.00 (80 years old and below) RM125.00 (Government Officer 80 years old and below) RM250.00 (Overseas Government Officer) Free (above 80 years old)
Graduate	Any person who has completed a course of studies from a school which is recognized by the Institute as equivalent to passing the Part I and Part II examinations of the Board of Architects Malaysia, or passed the Part I and Part II examinations	1,394	RM190.00 RM125.00 (Overseas) RM95.00 (Government Officer) RM62.50 (Overseas Government Officer)

	recognised by the Board of Architects Malaysia.		
Student	Any person who has passed the Malaysian Certificate of Education or Cambridge Overseas School Certificate or Higher School Certificate or any examination recognised as being equivalent and acceptable by the Council, and having been admitted to a course leading to a professional degree or diploma in architecture.	1385	Free of Charge
Associate Graduate	Any person who has graduated from a school of architecture but is not qualified for admission as a Corporate member, Graduate member or Student member but acceptable to the Council for this class of membership and is interested in the objectives of the Institute, and employed full time in an architectural practice or engaged in the building and design industry and residing in Malaysia.	103	RM190.00 RM125.00 (Overseas) RM95.00 (Government Officer) RM62.50 (Overseas Government Officer)
Academic	Any person who possesses qualifications in architecture acceptable to the Council for this class of membership and is interested in the objectives of the Institute and has been lecturing or teaching architecture full time in a college or university or engaged in building research or special projects in Malaysia, is residing in Malaysia and is not qualified for admission as a Corporate member or Student member.	27	RM250.00 RM125.00 (Government Officer) RM190.00(Overseas) RM95.00 (Overseas Government Officer)
International	Any person who has graduated from a school of architecture but who is not qualified for admission as a Corporate member, Graduate member or Student member but is acceptable to the Council for this class of membership and is interested in the objectives of the Institute, and is a Corporate Member in his country of residence or origin or holds equivalent membership of an Institute of Architects which itself is a member institute of the International Union of Architects (UIA).	5	RM500.00 RM250.00 (Government Officer)
Honorary	Any person who is not eligible for Corporate membership of the Institute may be elected as an Honorary Member if he is, by reason of his eminence, interest of Architecture and	9	-

	the arts and sciences connected therewith and of his contribution to the objectives of the Institute, considered by the Council to be eligible for the honor of Honorary Membership.		
	TOTAL MEMBERSHIP	4,995	

Procedure for enrolment:

- a) Every applicant for admission as Member shall make application and be proposed by at least two Corporate Members of the Institute in accordance with the proposal form as per Bye-Laws of his class of membership to which admission is sought.
- b) The proposal of every applicant for admission to any class of membership must be forwarded to the Honorary Secretary for submission to Council and if Council approves such proposal and find such candidate to be eligible and qualified according to the Constitution and Bye-Laws for the time being in force, he shall be admitted to membership in the class to which he has been proposed and such admission shall be recorded in the minutes of the Council meeting at which such nomination is approved.

4. BUDGET OF THE INSTITUTE

Sources of funds:

- i) Annual membership subscriptions
- ii) Sale of publications
- iii) Conferences/seminars
- iv) Sponsorships

The budget would have to be approved by Council.

5. NUMBER OF CHAPTERS

There are currently 5 Chapters of PAM:

- i) Northern Chapter (includes states of Penang, Perlis and Kedah)
- ii) Southern Chapter (includes states of Johor and Malacca)
- iii) Sabah Chapter
- iv) Sarawak Chapter
- v) East Coast Chapter (includes states of Pahang, Terengganu and Kelantan)

6. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM)

The Annual General Meeting shall be held in the month of April each year.

7. LEGAL STATUS OF THE INSTITUTE IN THE COUNTRY

PAM is recognised by the Malaysian Government as the national institute for Architects in Malaysia. Membership to PAM is not compulsory for a professional Architect to practice

architecture in Malaysia. Corporate Members are entitled to use the suffix APAM after their names while Fellow Members may use the suffix FPAM.

8. LEGAL STATUS OF THE ARCHITECTS IN THE COUNTRY

Architecture in Malaysia is regulated through the Architects Act 1967 (Act 117).

Entitlement:

Only an Architect or a foreign architect who is residing in Malaysia for not less than one hundred and eighty days in any one calendar year shall be entitled to submit plans or drawings to any person or authority in Malaysia.

9. REGISTRATION AUTHORITY FOR ARCHITECTS IN THE COUNTRY

The registration authority for architects in Malaysia is the Board of Architects Malaysia or Lembaga Arkitek Malaysia (LAM) constituted under the Architects Act 1967 (Revision in 2015). The Board of Architects Malaysia (LAM) is the statutory body set up by the government to control the registration of architects and practice of architecture in Malaysia. The Architects Act has allowed professional architects in Malaysia to use the prefix 'Ar.'

10. INTERNATIONAL AFFILIATIONS OF THE INSTITUTES

ORGANISATIONS	POSITIONS HELD BY MEMBERS OF THE INSTITUTE	ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS
International Union of Architects (UIA)	<p>Ar Tan Sri Haji Esa Mohamed Immediate Past President (2017-2020) President UIA (2014-2017) 1st Vice President Region IV (2011-2014) Council Member, Region IV (2008-2011) Member, Professional Practice Commission (1998-2008) Professional Practice Commission Implementation Task Force (2009-2011)</p> <p>Ar Datuk Tan Pei Ing Secretary General (2021-2023) Council Member, Region IV (2017-2021) Alternate Council Member, Region IV (2008-2011) Member, Professional Practice Commission (2004-2008, 2014-2020) Member, International Competition Commission (2014-2017) Chair, Committee on Gender Equity in Architecture under UIA Professional Practice Commission Member, Vision and Strategic Planning Committee (2008-2011)</p> <p>Ar Saifuddin Ahmad Alternate Council Member, Region IV (2017-2020)</p> <p>Ar (Dr.) Mohd Zulhemlee An Member, UIA Education Commission (Educom) (2017-2020)</p> <p>Ar Boon Che Wee Member, Professional Practice Commission (2004-2008)</p> <p>Ar Dr Goh Chong Chia Treasurer (2008-2011)</p> <p>Ar Alice Leong Pek Lian Member, UIA Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Commission (2017-2020), (2021-2023), (2023-2026)</p> <p>Ar Sarly Adre Sarkum Member, UIA Sustainable Development Commission: Reflection (2023-2026)</p> <p>Ar Thirilogachandran Member, Professional Practice Commission (2023-2026)</p>	EUR 1500

	<p>Ar Datin Seri Dr Norwina Mohd Nawawi Member, UIA Architecture for All Work Programme (2017-2020), (2021-2023), (2023-2026) Member, UIA Public Health Work Programme (2017-2020), (2021-2023), (2023-2026)</p> <p>Ar Mumtazah Mustajab Member, UIA Architecture for All Work Programme (2023-2026)</p> <p>Ar Adrianta Aziz Member, UIA Architecture and Children Work Programme (2021-2023), (2023-2026)</p> <p>Ar Rushdina Ismail Correspondent, UIA Architecture and Children Work Programme (2023-2026)</p> <p>Ar Ahmad Ridha Abd Razak Member, UIA Heritage and Cultural Identity Work Programme (2021-2023) Correspondent, UIA Heritage and Cultural Identity Work Programme (2023-2026)</p> <p>Ar Dato' Zulkhairi Md Zain Member, UIA Work Programme "Indigenous Peoples" (2022-2023), (2023-2026) Member, UIA Heritage and Cultural Identity Work Programme (2023-2026) Correspondent, UIA Public Spaces Work Programme (2023-2026)</p> <p>Ar Sharon Amin Member, UIA Work Programme "Indigenous Peoples" (2022-2023), (2023-2026)</p> <p>Ar Mohd Azli Mohamad Jamil Member, UIA Public Spaces Work Programme (2023-2026)</p> <p>Ar Aimi Ramizah Roslan Member, UIA Natural and Human Disasters Work Programme (2023-2026)</p> <p>Ar Mustapha Kamal Zulkarnain Member, UIA Architecture, Cities and Territories Work Programme (2023-2026)</p>	
Eastern Regional Organisation on Planning & Housing (EAROPH)	<p>Ar K C Leong Secretary General EAROPH International (1978-86)</p> <p>Ar Dato' Dr Ruslan Khalid Secretary General EAROPH International (1986-92)</p> <p>Ar Jimmy C S Lim Council Member EAROPH International (1992-94)</p> <p>Ar John Koh Seng Siew Secretary General EAROPH International (1994-2002)</p> <p>Ar Paul Lai Chu Council Member EAROPH International (2003-2005)</p> <p>Ar Lim Pay Chye Council Member EAROPH International (2003-2006)</p> <p>Ar Abu Zarim Abu Bakar Council Member EAROPH Malaysia (2006-2011)</p> <p>Datuk Ar Ezumi Harzani Ismail President EAROPH Malaysia (2019 – 2021)</p> <p>Ar Thirilogachandran a/l Shanmugasundaram Secretary General EAROPH International (2019-2021) Deputy President EAROPH Malaysia (2018-2020) Honorary Secretary EAROPH Malaysia (2011-2012) Council Member EAROPH Malaysia (2012-2014), (2014-2016), (2019 – 2021) Chairman EAROPH Malaysia (2024-2025)</p> <p>Ar Dato' Zulkhairi Md Zain Honorary Secretary EAROPH Malaysia (2018-2021), (2022-2023), (2024-2025)</p>	US\$85
Architects Regional Council Asia (ARCASIA)	<p>Ar Dato' Dr Kenneth Yeang Deputy Chairman (1983-1984) Chairman (1987-1988) , Advisor (1999-2000)</p> <p>Ar David Teh Teik Lim Deputy Chairman (1985-1988)</p>	US\$1000

	<p>Ar Tan Sri Haji Esa Mohamed Honorary Secretary (1987-1988) Chairman (1995-1996) Immediate Past Chairman (1997-1998) Advisor (2022-2023)</p> <p>Ar Datuk P Kasi Honorary Treasurer (1987-1988) Chairman ACAE (1991-1994) Honorary Secretary (1995-1996) Chairman (1999-2000)</p> <p>Ar Henry Lee Inn Seong Honorary Treasurer (1995-1996)</p> <p>Ar Lai Lok Kun Honorary Secretary (1978-1980)</p> <p>Ar Lt Kol Prof Dato' Parid Wardi Chairman ACAE (1997-2000)</p> <p>Ar Dr Tan Loke Mun Honorary Secretary (1999-2000)</p> <p>Ar Lim Pay Chye Honorary Treasurer (1999-2000)</p> <p>Ar Datuk Tan Pei Ing Deputy Chairman, Zone B (2007-2008) President Elect (2011-2012) President (2013-2014) Immediate ARCASIA Past President (2015-2016) Advisor of ARCASIA (2017-2018) Advisor of ARCASIA (2019-2021) Advisor of ARCASIA (2024-2025)</p> <p>Ar Saifuddin Ahmad Member, ARCASIA Committee on Professional Practice (2018-2019) ARCASIA Vice President Zone B (2019-2021) ARCASIA President-Elect (2023) ARCASIA President (2024-2025)</p> <p>Ar Dexter Koh Yew Peng Honorary Secretary (2024-2025)</p> <p>Ar Datuk Ezumi Harzani Ismail Member, ARCASIA Committee on Professional Practice (2017-2018, 2019-2020)</p> <p>Ar S. Thirilogachandran Chairman, ARCASIA Committee on Professional Practice (2017-2018) Deputy Chairman, ARCASIA Committee on Professional Practice (2015-2016) Member, ARCASIA Committee on Professional Practice (2013-2015, 2021-2023) Member, ARCASIA Committee on Social Responsibility (2012-2013)</p> <p>Ar Alvin Lim Hai Seah Member, ARCASIA Committee on Professional Practice (2019-2021, 2021-2023, 2024-2025)</p> <p>Ar Adrianta Aziz Chairman, ARCASIA Committee of Architecture Education (2022-2023) Deputy Chairman, ARCASIA Committee of Architecture Education (2019-2021) Member, ARCASIA Committee of Architecture Education (2017-2018, 2018-2019)</p> <p>Ar Alice Leong Pek Lian Member, ARCASIA Committee on Green Sustainable Architecture (2017-2018, 2018-2019, 2019-2021) Deputy Chairman, ARCASIA Committee on Green Sustainable Architecture (2022-2023) Chairman, ARCASIA Committee on Green Sustainable Architecture (2024-2025)</p> <p>Ar Datin Seri Dr Norwina Mohd Nawawi Member, ARCASIA Committee on Social Responsibility (2013-2018, 2018-2019, 2019-2021, 2021-2023)</p> <p>Ar Ahmad Ridha Abd Razak</p>	
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	<p>Chairman, ARCASIA Committee on Young Architects (2019-2021) Deputy Chairman, ARCASIA Committee on Young Architects (2017-2018, 2018-2019) Member, ARCASIA Committee on Young Architects (2016-2017) Honorary Treasurer (2024-2025) Ar Dato' Zulkhairi Md Zain Member, ARCASIA Heritage Preservation Group (2022-2023) Member, ARCASIA Committee of Architecture Education (2025) Ar Ahmad Najib Ariffin Member, ARCASIA Heritage Preservation Group (2022-2023) Ar Aimi Ramizah Roslan Member, ARCASIA Committee on Social Responsibility (2024-2025) Ar Muhammad Qhawarizmi Norhisham Member, ARCASIA Committee on Young Architects (2019-2021, 2022-2023) Deputy Chairman, ARCASIA Committee on Young Architects (2024-2025) Ar Mohd Azli Mohamad Jamil Member, ARCASIA Committee of Architecture Education (2024-2025) Ar Sarly Adre Sarkum Member, ARCASIA Committee on Green Sustainable Architecture (2024-2025)</p>	
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11. MAJOR PROGRAMMES OF THE INSTITUTE IN THE PAST YEARS

- Kuala Lumpur Architecture Festival (KLAF) cum ARCHIDEX
- PAM President's Night (Annually)
- WAD World Architecture Day (Annually)
- PAM Annual Dinner (Annually)
- PAM Members' Night (Annually)
- PAM Golf Competition (Annually)
- PAM Inter Firms Bowling (Annually)
- Students Workshop & Exhibition (Annually)
- PAM Housing + Urbanity Symposium (Annually)
- PAM Professional Practice Forum (Annually)
- PAM Promotion of Profession Workshop (Annually)
- PAM Community Care Programme (Annually)
- Community Outreach Programme (Monthly)
 - Architects Meet the Public Session
- Technical Visits
- Arbitration, Adjudication, Expert Determination & Mediation Services
- CPD Seminars & Workshops (1st and 3rd week of the month)
- Design Lecture Series (4th week of the month)
- Architectural Design Competition

12. ARCHITECTURAL COMPETITIONS/ AWARDS

- PAM Gold Medal and PAM Kington Loo Medal
- PAM Awards (Annually)
- PAM Student Awards: PAM Silver and Bronze Medals
- PAM – The Edge Green Excellence Award (Annually)

13. KEY ISSUES FACING THE ARCHITECTS / ARCHITECTURAL PROFESSION / INSTITUTE IN THE COUNTRY

- **Occupational Safety and Health - Construction Design and Management Regulations (CDM 2024) Implementation**
Architects face the burden of additional responsibilities under proposed CDM regulations, particularly where clients have assigned the role of Principal Construction Work Designer (PCWD) to the architect. There is an urgent need for legal clarity, training, and stakeholder alignment to manage risks and liability effectively.
- **Undermining of Professional Fees and Scope**
The post-pandemic recovering economy has led to increased construction and compliance costs for developers, resulting in a challenging practice environment where rampant fee diving is prevalent. Conventional procurement is gradually becoming less favoured compared to Design and Build. Weak enforcement of the minimum scale of fees is eroding professional standards. This compromises design quality and sustainability of practices, especially among small and medium-sized firms. The situation is made worse by scope creep, where more is expected for the same or less fees.
- **Digital Disruption and Capacity Gaps**
Uneven adoption of BIM, AI, and digital tools is creating disparities within the profession. Many firms lack resources or support to adapt, risking obsolescence in an increasingly tech-driven industry. Older firms lacking a viable succession planning structure with younger more technologically enabled junior partners find it difficult to compete in a highly competitive environment.

14. RESOURCES OF THE INSTITUTE

- **PUSAT BINAAN SDN BHD**
Pusat Binaan Sdn Bhd, the business and entrepreneurial arm of PAM is involved in areas relating to the architectural profession and building industry. The activities undertaken by Pusat Binaan Sdn Bhd are not solely for profit but also as a service to members and others in the building industry.
- **PAM EDUCATION FUND (PEF FUND)**
The PAM Education Fund was set up with the approval of general body of members on 9th August 1981. The main objective of the fund is to encourage and assist persons desirous of acquiring architectural or related qualifications by provision of

scholarship and educational loans. The Fund provides loans or grants of money, book and equipment for training candidates in the architectural profession and also provides grants for research work in relation to building science or to the art and science of architecture. Current PEF projects include travel scholarship to students from recognised universities, study scholarships, student jamborees, student exhibitions and design discourse for the students.

- **PUSAT TEKNOLOGI PAM SDN BHD**

Pusat Teknologi PAM Sdn Bhd principal activity is consist of providing education related services. It was established with the objectives to be the learning and development platform for PAM Members. Among the programmes offered by PTPAM were Industrial Building System (IBS), Building Information Modelling (BIM), Route for PAM Accredited Arbitrator Courses, PAM BootCamp, BIM Summit, BIM Buzz, PAM Part III Structured Course, Train the Tutor and Practical Construction Contract Administration Course.

15. THE INSTITUTES EFFORTS TO IMPLEMENT ARCASIA RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED IN THE PAST COUNCIL MEETINGS

- **Promotion of Sustainability and ESG Alignment**

PAM established an ESG Committee and organised CPD programmes focused on sustainable design, echoing ARCASIA's climate-responsive architecture agenda.

- **Advancement of Digital Transformation and AI Readiness**

Targeted webinars and working groups were initiated to raise awareness on AI and digital tools in practice, supporting ARCASIA's call for technological capacity-building.

- **Regional Collaboration and Professional Data Sharing**

PAM contributed to ARCASIA's practice and education surveys, and supported member participation in regional meetings, student competitions, and cross-border initiatives.

- **Cross-Border Education and Academic Exchange**

PAM supported collaborative initiatives with regional universities, including MOU signings, joint research programmes, and academic exchanges aligned with ARCASIA's objectives to foster architectural education and knowledge-sharing across borders.

16. PLANS FOR THE FUTURE

- **Better public engagement**

PAM is exploring new ways to connect with the public and potential client groups seeking to strengthen awareness of the role of architects and good design practices in shaping a healthy and sustainable built environment. This is to be achieved through the activities of the PAM Promotion of the Profession Committee, through its flagship activity 'SinggahKL' modelled after the OpenHouse in London. An online

portal for our magazine Architecture Malaysia is to be launched in conjunction with the activities of World Architecture Day 2025.

- **Strengthen Professional Regulation and Practice Standards**
PAM will continue to advocate for clearer implementation of the Occupational Safety and Health Construction Design and Management (CDM) framework, enforce fair fee practices, and support regulatory reforms to protect the role and responsibilities of architects.
- **Advance Digital Competency and Sustainability in Architecture**
Efforts will focus on equipping members with digital tools such as BIM and AI, while promoting sustainable and climate-responsive design through CPD programmes, technical guides, and policy engagement.
- **Enhance Regional Integration and Member Services**
PAM is seeking to expand cross-border collaborations, strengthen ARCASIA engagement, and improve support for members nationwide through better communication channels, digital services, and localised programmes.

17. ANY OTHER IMPORTANT ISSUES WHICH REQUIRE ARCASIA COUNCIL TO ADDRESS/ASSIST

- **Harmonisation of Professional Standards Across Member Institutes**
There is a growing need for ARCASIA to facilitate mutual recognition of qualifications, standardise professional practice frameworks, and support member institutes in regulatory alignment for cross-border collaboration.
- **Strengthening Support for Export of Architectural Services**
ARCASIA may explore mechanisms to help architects access regional markets through shared resources, trade promotion networks, and government-level advocacy within member countries.