

KUANTAN COMMUNITY
CITY OF KUANTAN, MALAYSIA
CATEGORY D

ABSTRACT

Kuantan is the capital city of Pahang State, located on the east coast of Peninsular Malaysia with the administrative area of 2,453 square km and the total population is 490,000. Kuantan has a tropical climate with year-round high humidity and temperature ranging from 27 C to 35 C. The main economic contributors are industries, manufacturing, business, banking, trading, real estates and tourism. Kuantan serves as a regional centre for both multinational companies and local business. In recent years, Kuantan has become one of the most growing cities in Malaysia with the development such as shopping complexes, hotels, convention centres, residential facilities, educational and health institutional.

Kuantan all the while has preserved the natural forest and created landwards green spaces into the city centre. 55% of the total area of Kuantan District is forest reserved which offers varieties of flora and fauna. For the urban landscape, design has been created especially in the city centre by introducing exotic local plants species (genus loci) to elucidate the uniqueness of Kuantan image. In relation to eco-system protection, various programmes has been implemented such as tree planting campaigns, 3B (Bring Back the Bird), rehabilitation, waste disposal area and tin mining water bodies.

Kuantan is a city with fascinating arts and diverse cultural of the Malay, Chinese, Indian and Orang Asli. All ethnic are free to practice their worship and celebrate festivities such as Eid-Mubarak, Chinese Lunar New Year, Deepavali and etc. Activities such as cultural shows, theatres and art craft demo are often staged and received very encouraging participation from the communities. These programmes have increased the spirit of One Malaysia concept promoted by the Federal Government. The Government together with the related Non-Government Organization (NGO's) plays important part in promoting preservation of buildings and monument with heritage value. Several building in the Kuantan CBD area and Sungai Lembing old tin mining tows has been gazetted as historic building.

Highest achievement for Kuantan City in term of environmental best practices is winning the **ASEAN Sustainable Cities for Clean Water 2010**. Kuantan was also the first winner for

Malaysia Sustainable City in year 2007. Contributing to this success are the results of the holistic environmental approaches through air pollution monitoring system, sustainable waste management, sustainable water management, conservation of the environmental sensitive area and environmental awareness programmes. Kuantan has also engaged partnership with international associations such as DANIDA in waste reduction programmes, UNDP for Sanitary Landfill Management and the introduction of Kuantan Biodiversity Index collaboration with UNEP.

With the vision "Together We Shape Kuantan, the role of the public is reckoned to be the utmost synergy to drive Kuantan to the highest level. The communities are involved from planning process to decision making exercises. They have been participating on various platforms such as Kuantan Local Agenda 21, Resident Association, other Non-Government Organization (NGO's) and Community Body Organization (CBO's). Kuantan has adopted the Local Agenda 21 principles since year 2000 and managed to formulate and implement four action plans which are related to social development, environmental protection, infrastructure and public amenities and economic development. One of the most successful programmes involving the public is **'The Malaysia Book of Records' in 2010 is accredited The Largest Mind Map theme 'Kuantan as a Sustainable City'.**

Kuantan has outlined various plans and initiatives to promote healthy living by providing recreational parks and public sports centre's. Many activities have been organized comprising of competitive sports, traditional sports and mass healthy programmes. Health care awareness, campaigns 'Walk-A-Mile', Curb Obesity, Eat Healthy Food, Blood Donation and the 'Drug Intervention Centre' are carried out by numerous organizations.

The existing strategic planning for Kuantan City has appropriately addressed all the criteria comprehensively. As far as improvement is concerned, The Municipal Council is carrying out internal and external exercises which including reviewing and refining with the aim of keeping pace with the changing environment.



Kuantan River running through nature and urban development



Mangrove conservation project and the boardwalk



The Malaysia Book of Records 'The Largest Minds Map', 2010



Drawing activity at Taman Kerang in December 2010