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Procedia Social and Behavioral Sciences

Procedia - Social and Behavioral Sciences 222 (2016) 621 - 630

ASLI QoL2015, Annual Serial Landmark International Conferences on Quality of Life ASEAN-Turkey ASLI QoL2015 AicQoL2015Jakarta, Indonesia. AMER International Conference on Quality of Life The Akmani Hotel, Jakarta, Indonesia, 25-27 April 2015 "Quality of Life in the Built & Natural Environment 3"

The Morphology of Heritage Trees in Colonial Town: Taiping Lake Garden, Perak, Malaysia

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Abstract

Heritage trees are appearance of historical and cultural significance, besides giving a unique historical and landscape roles in cities. The main objectives of this study are to introduce and promote the characteristics of heritage trees in Taiping Lake Garden to the community. The methodology of the study comprises a reviewed, identification and assessment based on (a) aged trees that near and over 100 years; (b) huge trees according to DBH and (c) general superlative qualities, remarkable historical, cultural and other special features. The importance of the study was to promote conservation of our heritage trees as regards the notable tree asset.

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Environment- Behaviour Studies, Faculty of Architecture, Planning & Surveying, Universiti Teknologi MARA, Malaysia.

Keywords: Heritage trees; morphology; classification; colonial

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Peer-review under responsibility of AMER (Association of Malaysian Environment-Behaviour Researchers) and cE-Bs (Centre for Environment- Behaviour Studies, Faculty of Architecture, Planning & Surveying, Universiti Teknologi MARA, Malaysia. doi:10.1016/j.sbspro.2016.05.219

1. Introduction

Heritage tree might look as same as ordinary tree. In fact, it has the same ecological-landscaping roles in an area. In heritage aspect heritage tree is considered as "vital to the universal character or feature of an district and can be at the heart of a particular historic or architectural interest in a site" (English Heritage 2015). Thus, it shows how important it is to conserve this heritage tree. Though, in Malaysia's context heritage tree is considered as a new term. Therefore, the conservation efforts towards this valuable heritage are deeply needed. This paper will touch on few topics at the beginning of this positive effort. The first topic in this paper will discuss the heritage trees definitions. The discussion will then continue to the laws aspects and its values in strengthening the importance of heritage trees are evaluated for the plant morphology and the physical factors such as the Diameter Breast Height (DBH), tree height, crown shape, growth rate, and tree special trees in laws and guidelines especially in the development procedure.

1.1. Heritage trees

There have been several studies in the literature reporting about the importance of protecting the heritage trees due a special characteristic it holds. The previous studies conducted by Loeb (1992) shows that, many trees decline and die prematurely and due to this circumstances. It is unusual to find exceptionally robust old trees that manage to soldier on despite the heavy odds. Such exemplary trees are treasured by the community, given special attention and care besides people pay respect to such senior doyens of the neighbourhood and often accorded a status equivalent to cultural heritage. Heritage trees as trees with particular natural or cultural characteristics can play an important role in the cultural landscape and society, and, therefore, demand an effective protection policy (mid - Hribar 2009, 2011). Furthermore, Cloke and Pawson (2008) stated trees can mark the histories of the lives lived around them, but they are also marked by the changing cultural settings in which these histories are performed. The Department of Environment of United Kingdom circular 36/78 (DOE), mentioned that the trees should normally be visible from a public place. The significant of trees may be enhanced by their scarcity and the value of the group of trees other factors such an importance for wildlife habitats (Richard C., 1993). Therefore, it is crucial when efforts are made to identify a tree that has a special characteristic that can be regard as a heritage tree. According to Oregon municipal a heritage tree is refer due to its age, size, species, quality, is of landmark importance, and its retention as such will not unreasonably interfere with the use of the property upon which it is located. In addition, the criteria such as accessibility to the public, tree health and historic significance all play a role in whether or not a tree or grove qualifies. Among the criteria to qualify a tree to be endorsed as a Heritage Tree include: a girth of more than 5 metres, rarity of species and historical significance as proposed by National Parks for Singapore Botanical Garden in the Heritage Trees Scheme. Heritage trees also variously labelled as ancient, beautiful, big, champion, elite, exceptional, famous, heritage, historic, landmark, old, outstanding, remarkable, specimen, or veteran trees (Randall and Clepper, 1977; May, 1990; Mitchell et al., 1990; Alderman and Stevenson, 1993; Jim, 1994a; van Pelt, 1996; Parken- ham, 1997; Lewington and Parker, 1999; Read, 2000; Browne, 2001; Meyer, 2001). Heritage trees can stand out from the surroundings for their material attributes (the morphology.) or their non-material values (e.g. symbolic or aesthetic meaning; [mid Hribar 2008, 2009, 2011). The subsequent conclusions can be drawn from the previous study, the heritage trees, were selected according to species, dimension, structure, condition, location, and special considerations. According to United Nation Education Scientific Cultural Organization (UNESCO), Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention (2013), since 1992 any significant interactions between people and the natural environment have been recognized as cultural landscapes. For the purposes of this Convention, the following shall be considered as "natural heritage". In addition, according to Yuszaidy M.Y., Hanapi D., Ab Samad K. (2011) in Malaysia, the Department of National Heritage has urged, under the National Heritage Act, 2005, to meet the needs of the country's culture and heritage development it has sets out the principles and regulations of protection, and preserving cultural heritage and natural heritage in accordance with the current world situation. Respectively, government responses could range from exceptionally conscientious and diligent in protecting trees, to those that are less earnest and forthcoming. However, it was also shown that the Download English Version:

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