

**Malaysia Sustainable Cities Practicum**  
**11.384, 11.385, 11.386**  
**Fall 2016, IAP and Spring 2017**

**Instructors**

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**TAs**

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**General Objectives of the Practicum:**

Each year, the Practicum brings 12 - 15 students from MIT to learn about and analyze sustainable city development in Malaysia. Malaysia is a rapidly developing country that has shifted from an agrarian to a high tech economy in just several decades. Along the way, it has increasingly integrated sustainability objectives into its development agenda. The students in the Practicum will help determine the extent to which these efforts have been successful. They will identify specific projects or policy-making efforts that the following year's class of International Scholars can examine more closely. Thus, the goals of the Practicum are to (1) understand the constraints on, and opportunities for, sustainable development in Malaysia; (2) provide feedback to various development agencies, particularly the Iskandar Regional Development Authority (IRDA) in Johor Bahru; and (3) identify projects or policy-making efforts that could serve as the focus of the research of future international Visiting Scholars.

See [MSCP](#) website for description of International Scholars and their work over the next year.

**Course Requirements and Responsibilities:**

The Practicum is preceded by a mandatory online tutorial that students are required to complete in the fall to prepare them to interact with citizens and public officials in Malaysia. The Practicum is a 12-unit course. Practicum students are expected to commit 5+ hours a week during November and December in a guided self-study on Malaysian culture, history, politics, geography, planning and economics.

**REQUIRED MEETING:** There is one required meeting during which practicum students meet to discuss the Practicum and Reflective Practice.

Under the direction of the MIT Faculty Committee for the program, a group of MIT graduate students will travel from Boston to Malaysia. Students and faculty will spend approximately two full weeks in Malaysia over IAP, during which time students will visit multiple cities, engage in some classroom study and reflection, and conduct field-based research. The Practicum concludes with a group report-writing session in Cambridge during the last week of IAP, for which all students are required to be present, totaling approximately 20 additional hours to complete the Practicum requirements. [View the [final report](#) from last year's MSCP Practicum.

### **Pre-IAP Assignments: Response Papers and Site-Specific Suggested Contacts**

**Assignment 1: Response Papers:** Write **SHORT** (1-1.5 pages) response papers based on the assigned readings. Your response papers are due on the following Wednesdays:

- **Reflection 1: Weds. Nov 9**
- **Reflection 2: Weds. Nov 23**
- **Reflection 3: Weds. Dec 7**

We encourage you to integrate any additional Malaysia readings that you find particularly useful and would like to share with the class into your response papers. The response papers will be visible to the rest of the class as soon as you post it.

**Assignment 2: Site-Specific Organizations/Individuals:** We are spending more time at our sites this year to give you an opportunity to schedule additional meetings with organizations and individuals of interest within our sites. Write a short topical literature review (1-2 paragraphs on a site-specific theme of interest to you) and identify 3 individuals or organizations that you would like to set up meetings with at your site (**December 15**).

#### **Reading:**

All reading will be available on the course website. Please contact Jessica or Yasmin if you have any difficulty accessing the readings. **MAKE SURE YOU DOWNLOAD READINGS BEFORE END OF THE SEMESTER – the course website will not be available over IAP.**

#### **October 31: History and Challenges of Urbanization**

- Yaakob, Usman; Masron, Tarmiji and Masami, Fujimaki. "Ninety years of urbanization in Malaysia: a geographical investigation of its trends and characteristics." pg. 79-101.
- Skim [Practicum full report](#) from last year.
- Ch. 6.: J.M. Hooker's *Short History of Malaysia*, pg. 95–131

Recommended: Ch. 1-3: J.M. Hooker's *Short History of Malaysia* pg. 1–95

Recommended: Seto, Karen C., Roberto Sánchez-Rodríguez, and Michail Fragkias. 2010. "The New Geography of Contemporary Urbanization and the Environment." *Annual Review of Environment and Resources* 35 (1): 167–94.

Recommended: Rimmer, P. J.; Dick, H. W. 2009. *The City in Southeast Asia: Patterns, Processes and Policy*. pg. 27–42 (Ch. 2 excerpt)

#### November 7: Reflective Practice

- Review news in Malaysia: *The Economist's* page on Malaysian politics *The Guardian*
- Fisher, Raphael. 2012. "Reflective Practice" in Sanyal, Bishwapriya, Lawrence J. Vale, and Christina Rosan, ed. *Planning Ideas That Matter: Livability, Territoriality, Governance, and Reflective Practice*. MIT Press. pg. 313-332

#### November 14: Colonial History and Sustainable Development Policy in Malaysia

- Ch. 7–8: J.M. Hooker's *Short History of Malaysia*, pg. 131–208

Recommended: Ch. 4–5: J.M. Hooker's *Short History of Malaysia* pg. 58–95

#### November 21: Post-Independence History and Development Planning in Malaysia

- Ch. 9-10: J.M. Hooker's *Short History of Malaysia*, pg. 209–277
- Government of Malaysia. 2010. Tenth Malaysia Plan (Summary), p. 1–13

Recommended: Ahmad, Faizah, Syra Lawrance Maidin, and Rosilawati Zainol. 2013. "Malaysian Development Plan System: Issues and Problems, One Decade after its Reform (2001–2011)." *Planning Malaysia* 11: 1–20.

Recommended: Harper, T. N. 1999. "The Advent of the 'Bumiputera'" in *The End of Empire and the Making of Malaysia*.

Recommended: Moser, S., 2012. Circulating visions of 'High Islam': the adoption of fantasy Middle Eastern architecture in constructing Malaysian national identity. *Urban Studies*, 49(13), pp.2913-2935.

#### November 28: Urban and Environmental Governance in Malaysia

- Hezri, A. A., & Nordin Hasan, M. 2006. Towards sustainable development? The evolution of environmental policy in Malaysia. In *Natural Resources Forum* 30 (1): 37-50.
- Ho, Chin Siong. 2008. "Urban Governance and Rapid Urbanization Issues in Malaysia". *Journal Alam Bina* 13 (4): 1-24.

Recommended: Kathirithamby-Wells, J. 2005. "Introduction" and "Conclusion" in *Nature and Nation: Forests and Development in Peninsular Malaysia*. Singapore. NUS Press. (p. 1–17, 415–423)

Recommended: Rogers, Peter P., Kazi F. Jalal, John A. Boyd. 2012. *An Introduction to Sustainable Development*. Earthscan. Chapter 1-2, pg. 20-83.

### December 5: Topical Literature Review

*Readings reviewed by students in consultation with TAs and/or librarians. Readings relevant to particular research teams may include:*

- Ho, Chin Siong, Yuzuru Matsuoka, Janice Simson, and Kei Gomi. 2013. "Low Carbon Urban Development Strategy in Malaysia – The Case of Iskandar Malaysia Development Corridor." *Habitat International* 37 (January): 43–51.
- Foo, Lee Hoon Ruth, and Cecilia Wong. 2014. "Planning for Housing Development in Malaysia: Developers' Response to the Regulatory Policy Framework." *International Planning Studies* 19 (2) (March 7): 192–209.
- Rahman Mohamed, A., & Lee, K. T. (2006). Energy for sustainable development in Malaysia: Energy policy and alternative energy. *Energy Policy*, 34 (15), 2388-2397.
- Urbanization Literature Review

### December 12: Site Specific Reading (TBD)

- Read carefully through [Practicum report](#) from last year to see what kinds of questions the students developed for your site:
- Your TAs will provide additional site-specific reading on the course website.

### **December 15: Assignment 2 Due**

**In case you are interested, the following resources are helpful:**

#### Cultural Awareness:

- Selections from *Culture Shock! A Survival Guide to Customs and Etiquette*, Taboos pg. 86-96, Food pg. 150-160.
- Recommended: [Frontline interview](#) with Chandra Muzaffar.

#### Before traveling:

- Site to glance over before travel to Malaysia
- Richmond and others *Lonely Planet Guide to Malaysia and Singapore*
- Language Guide : Everyday Malay Phrase Book
- Read over the descriptions of the [Scholars' profiles and research topics](#):
- Read the Guardian article: "1MDB: The inside story of the world's biggest financial scandal".

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