

## EDITORIAL PREFACE

### SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL ON ZERO HUNGER AND THE ROLES OF DESIGNERS

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Zero Hunger is one of the goals outlined in the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 2030. It is ranked or placed second in the list, and it shows the importance of this goal in the world sustainability framework. According to the United Nations (2016), Zero Hunger relates to mainly undernourishment which correlates closely with access to food resources. According to the data by the United Nations, 8.9% of the world population or 690 million people are suffering from hunger and the number increases about 10 million each year. The data also shows that about 135 million people experience acute hunger issues due to climate change and conflicts. The issue made worse with COVID-19 Pandemic that affects people's activities and businesses, thus disrupting supply and demand of food resources. People are hungry, and it is a serious issue, and it is commendable that the United Nations put Zero Hunger as one of the goals under SDG 2030. Therefore, it is wise to explore what is the role of designers in addressing Zero Hunger goal or food security issues in general. What can designers offer in terms of research and practice?

To explore the role of designers including built environment professionals in achieving Zero Hunger goal, it is imperative to know factors that affect hunger. One of the factors that is crucial is access to food; how can people get food easily and safely in an affordable term. Access to foods

could be related, among others to reduce agriculture lands, lack of advanced horticulture technology as well as overfishing and pollution of aquatic resources. It is argued here that reducing agriculture lands is a big issue that affects food production. Many lands, especially those near the city, have been converted to become housing and industrial lands. In addition, many agricultural lands in rural areas are suffering with lack of manpower because many people decided to live in the city for better opportunity. So, it is crucial that built environment professionals such as land planners and managers investigate the situation closely. A comprehensive land use management is needed to ensure enough lands are put aside for agriculture purposes, but land allotment alone is not enough. Good agricultural economic policy is needed to accompany the land use plan to ensure the agriculture industry remains relevant and there is no attempt to convert agricultural land to other economic use. In addition, study to advance horticulture research is needed to increase land productivity, thus we need better seeds, fertilizers, and techniques.

For architects and landscape architects, it is crucial to investigate how urban landscapes can be multi-functional in which lands in residential areas can serve as food production zones as well as recreational and social spaces. Current practice of having community gardens should be enhanced to ensure

every level of community can contribute, participate, and benefit from the community gardening program. It is a sad situation if urban community garden become an elite program in which only a select few can benefit from the program and it is even worse if the program been politicized for political popularity and milestones. It is crucial for urban community program to be further enhanced in terms of the concept. Unused or vacant urban spaces such as roof tops, river reserve, road reserve and utilities reserve shall be turned into urban farms. However, it is crucial for such programs to have clear guidelines or management frameworks to control the use of such lands for agriculture because lands in the city is in the interest of many parties and the last thing, we want is a conflict over uncontrolled farms in the city. Currently, community farms are mostly run by non-government organizations, and it is argued that private companies and corporate entities to start investing in urban agriculture activities. The development of buildings or facilities for vertical farming and vertical aqua farming require high capital injection and therefore private involvement is crucial. Herein lies the creativity of architects, landscape architects and planners to conduct feasibility study and advise their corporate client accordingly. With the oversupply of offices, high end residential areas, perhaps developers should look different land development scheme.

For the product and interior designers, the new study and exploration about tools for small farming or agriculture space is needed. Since the situation in the urban areas emphasis on apartment and condominium living, besides community gardens, it is also crucial to develop miniature farm in the apartment units; so how to develop the miniature farm in the apartment

units with appropriate tools and system shall be asked. There is always an interest on hydroponic and miniature garden, but the word “farm” might entail different meaning because the objectives and functions of the farms shall not only cover beauty, hobby, and self-serving produces. The suggestions above show how Zero Hunger objective in SDG Goals could be achieved partly by designers and design research. There are many other ideas that could be explored, examined, and tested be it at practice or research arena. As designers and design researchers, we should investigate all the SDG Goal seriously and think what our roles that can benefit mankind namely in the terms of environment, people, and economy.

Six articles are being published in this issue and as we see it, all of them directly or indirectly relate to SDG. We must admit that, and planning and design research and practice cannot be separated as their combination will provide a strong foundation for sustainability. SDG is a powerful tool and ALAM CIPTA intent to further explore and expand its usefulness to make our world a better place to live. ALAM CIPTA accepts articles that concern with architecture, art, and design related to the process, methods, techniques, practices, and theories in expanding our understanding to ensure sustainability. All articles in this issue provide relevant knowledge about how we can plan and design our environment, built environment, and products better. On behalf of the editors, I would like to thank all the authors and reviewers who had work extremely hard. Your contribution is valuable as it helps the advancement and dissemination of knowledge to “cipta” {create} a better world. We encourage your feedback at [alamciptaeditor@upm.edu.my](mailto:alamciptaeditor@upm.edu.my) and thank you for your continuous support of ALAM CIPTA.