

Planning for City with Soul

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Planning for city with soul

THE River of Life project is bound to continue and move from the Klang and Gambang rivers along the 13 other rivers within the city centre.

Significantly, Kuala Lumpur is the Malay name for a confederacy where two muddy rivers meet.

A much earlier proposed re-institution of rivers and re-link them to man-made water was carried under the 50 billion City project, which did not take off.

Should it be a tall order now to transform these rivers into focus, waterbodies in par with somewhere in Asia like Amsterdam, London, Melbourne and Paris by 2020?

Perhaps a reality check is in order. What we have are two small rivers, no wider than a canal. On dry days, it would be difficult to even a small boat over more shallow parts. Moreover, the river is treated as open sewage by those holding its civic consciousness.

Meanwhile, river fails at regular intervals, washing over dikes and defences and causing the rivers after a downpour. Until the Klang RBT, named project was completed, flooding was a common occurrence.

The culture of the Klang river has remained dark culture, much like the former British from the time it was declared as a Rumping in 1807 that led to the flooding of Kuala Lumpur.

This is supported by a Masterplanning Competition that attracted 27 bids with the shortlisted for voting by the public will ensure the success of the river beautification and development.

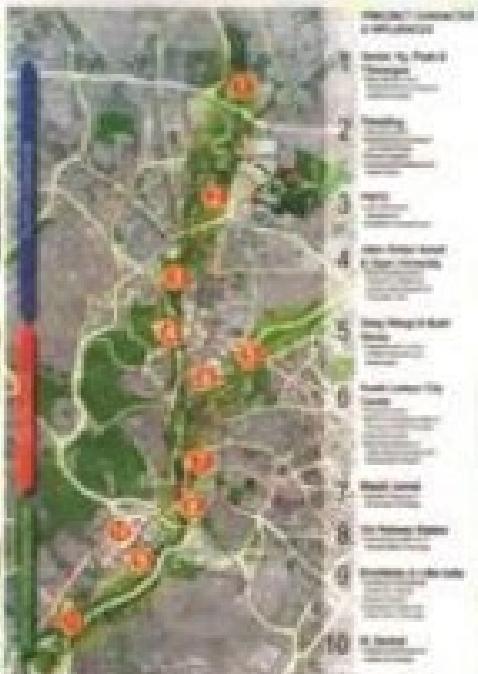
However, the river planning competition may prove to be as challenging as maintaining a three-world infrastructure as our local councilors usually. It will have to work with the more important by educating the people and controlling the indifference.

It would also be necessary for the government to allow the river to remain as it is present deplorable condition notwithstanding. As such, the State government and local authorities should not in tandem to upgrade the current strength of the Klang River.

The river can come to life with lakes and reservoirs such as river creation, measured storage and downstream fortification. The reservoirs should be used for walking, jogging and cycling.

Reservoir tanks can also be instead of on city roads disrupting traffic. With some imagination instead of money, our local authorities can create a large oasis base by making good use of trees that pass through their jurisdiction.

On stumps with little economic value, the authorities can be planted with Banyan trees. These unique trees help make agri-tourism from these



MAP COURTESY OF THE PROPOSED RIVER BEAUTIFICATION PROJECT AREA

bunches and open spaces making the project would grow into wild spaces.

As such, the bunches can be fed to green pathways, running parallel to the road. It is better to invest. Planting the fast tree and spreading by the world it will eventually be spread over a distance would generate great interest.

Over the past few decades, I have enjoyed watching the majestic rain trees at the Tengger Lake Gardens while

these huge bunches acting across the road, almost touching the lake. This glorious image is reflected prominently in my mind, sleep in my soul.

We should carry on replanting trees to grow our earth. It is also true to plant our love and history on selected bunches by planting "Family trees". It is appropriate for a person can pat and plant a tree that will grow for a few hundred years.

Every place is unique with

its own history and interests what it can do. However, if local history is addressed and considerations that make Kuala Lumpur what it is today are acknowledged, the city will be effectively sustained.

Whether the project is the River of Life or City of Life, no one gets to the master planer that encompasses real "People and nature enrich their lives than anything else."

YV Chua