Urban parks provide excellent setting for urbanites to pursue leisure time activities. In an ethnically diverse country as Malaysia, park designers, planners and managers are presented with challenges to ensure the promotion of equal access as well as to meet the needs and expectations of the different ethnic groups. Many urban parks failed to incorporate the socio-cultural and behavioural characteristics of the varied park users, focusing mainly on the material and physical aspects of their designs. The concern for ethnic variations in leisure activity preferences occurs due to the fact that the recreation behaviours of some groups may have caused them to be marginalised in their recreation experiences, or lead to facility damage and resource degradation, and also little is known on how ethnic background of recreational users shaped their recreational experiences. This research aims to examine the variations in leisure activity preferences of urban park users across three main groups, that is, Malays, Chinese and Indians. The leisure activity preferences examined includes park usage patterns and participation; social composition; and settings. Two urban parks located in Perak were studied, both being, Taiping Lake Garden (TLG) and Padang Polo, Ipoh (PPI). The data for this study was collected using two methods, that is, observation and survey; and data were then analysed using descriptive statistics. Findings revealed differences and similarities related to leisure activity preferences of the three ethnic groups. Chinese park users were found to be the most enthusiastic users as compared to Malays and Indians. Physical exercising, such as walking, was preferred by most parks users. Majority of the park users preferred companion, especially of their same ethnic groups, when frequenting the parks. Different groups also have different setting preferences. Factors such as time availability, cultural values, park’s physical characteristics, experiences sought and safety aspect, were identified to have contributed to the variations in leisure activity preferences. These findings contributed to a better understanding of the recreation style and leisure preferences of the culturally and ethnically diverse user groups. The findings will assist park designers, planners and managers to improve and enhance on the design, planning and management of urban parks. These can be achieved through better park designs, planned park activities and programmes, as well as, maintenance and clear management policies and strategies of the parks which will meet future park user’s needs and expectations.

The Malaysian Construction Industry Master Plan (CIMP 2006-2015) identified the innovative approaches of Industrialised Building Systems (IBS) and its supply chains as having important roles in improving productivity in construction processes. Supply chains in IBS involve relationships between many organisations and processes, with the evolution of specialised roles and embedded relationships. The procurement method is utilised as a mediator tool and as the means of controlling integration between players. A good supply chain integration practice leads to good integration among players. Although efforts exist to enhance IBS practice in Malaysia, establishing integration between IBS players is still a major hindrance. A framework for improving supply chain integration is needed. The research problem investigated is lack of supply chain integration and togetherness in IBS project delivery in Malaysia based on four objectives: (1) to investigate the SCM understanding and implementation in IBS projects; (2) to determine the challenges at each tier between players in order to facilitate supply chain integration among the players; (3) to identify means and dimension factors influencing successful integration at each tier between players; and (4) to develop a framework to enhance supply chain integration for successful IBS projects. This study adopted a multiple methods approach involving two stages: Stage 1, an exploratory stage using a mixed approach of quantitative (with 27 respondents) and qualitative methods (with 6 respondents); and Stage 2, a qualitative methods stage consisting of semi-structured interviews (with 35 respondents) and four (4) project observations. The study identified eight challenges: (1) lack of sufficient knowledge, understanding, and familiarity; (2) attitude and mentality; (3) financial matters; (4) work planning and arrangement; (5) supply chain flow and interaction; (6) guidelines and requirements; (7) risk and conflict liability, and (8) contractual and procurement matters, and means and dimension factors influencing successful integration were grouped into four categories: (1) human and behavioural means, (2) supply chain process and exchange flow, (3) supply chain structure and collaboration, and (4) work environment. The research outputs seek to facilitate and provide a framework as a term of reference for improving integration between supply chain players for the successful implementation of IBS project delivery.