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AWARENESS ON THE UTILISATION OF ROOFTOP GARDENS IN MALAYSIA: FROM USERS' PERSPECTIVE

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ABSTRACT

Currently, Malaysian government has encouraged the green development to minimise negative impacts on the environment and nearby ecosystem. Therefore, there are many components contributing to green development, including rooftop gardens. However, the utilisation of the rooftop garden is still low due to several problems. One of the problems is the lack of professional and public awareness. The aim of this study is to increase the utilisation of the rooftop garden among users in Klang Valley. In relation to the aim of the research, some objectives have been identified, which are to determine the level of awareness in terms of benefits among users for the utilisation of rooftop gardens, to identify barriers to the utilisation of rooftop gardens among users and to recommend methods for increasing the utilisation of rooftop gardens. This research was conducted using quantitative method. There were two types of respondents had been involved which were building occupants and public. 148 questionnaires were distributed among the occupants of Flora Damansara Apartment in Selangor and 71 questionnaires were returned through email and hardcopy questionnaire. Whereby, 61 questionnaires were distributed and returned by public respondents in Klang Valley by hardcopy questionnaires. The data was then analysed using the SPSS. The result shows that most of the respondents were aware that rooftop garden can improve the mitigation of urban heat island. In addition, most of the public respondents ranked the lack of government campaign/policy on the advantages of implementing the rooftop garden as contributing to their deficit awareness in utilising rooftop gardens in order to gain more benefits. Moreover, respondents from both public and occupants of the building agreed that the lack of facilities and equipment related to the rooftop garden have demotivated them from utilising it. Lastly, the respondents suggest that the allocation of additional signage to the rooftop garden in the building is necessary to improve the usage of rooftop garden.

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CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 INTRODUCTION

This chapter will generally explain of the research including background of the development of rooftop garden, problem statement, research question, research aim, research objective, scope of the research and terminology.

1.2 BACKGROUND OF STUDY

Green development is defined by Rocky Mountain Institute, (1998) as a concept of real estate development that considers the social and environment impacts of development. Rocky Mountain Institute, (1998) also categories the green development into three elements which are environmental responsiveness, resource efficiency, and community and cultural sensitivity. Environmental responsiveness is referring to the intrinsic value of nature and minimise damage to an ecosystem. Resource efficiency refers to the use of fewer resources to conserve energy and the environment. Finally, community and cultural sensitivities identify the community, given that the value of culture is unique, and that green development can be considered, as solar energy can be achieved through solar panel implementation. Green development is generally important in order to minimise negative impacts on the environment and on the social community.

Malaysia's green development could be traced back to the Third Malaysian Plan 1976-1980, which recognises the environment as a component of development planning (Hezri and Hasan, 2006). Since 2006, the Government of Malaysia has been promoting green development (A. Alias et al., 2010). Malaysian National Green