



A Sense of Place Using Visual Characteristic in Historic City

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Abstract

Recognising the transition of the values associated to urban heritage conservation will open the way to the definition of the present and future value system. The Historic Urban Landscape is the urban area understood as a historic layering of cultural and natural values, extending beyond the notion of 'historic centre' or 'ensemble' to include the broader urban context and its geographical setting (UNESCO, 2011). This research looks at the theory of 'sense of place' and how 'visual elements' play important roles in creating a sense of place in historic urban area. Steele (1981) suggested that 'sense of place' is justified by individual experience of a person in a particular setting. It is a mixture of significant physical, social and cultural elements in a place that has shaped the unique and distinctive characteristic of the place. Christian Norberg-Schulz emphasized on the notion of the relationship of culture and buildings (physical elements) in sense of place. This connection could be interpreted by assessing the visual elements of the place. The study explores on how urban landscape of a historic setting could serve as the evidence for 'sense of place' that formed the identity of the area. Assessment made regarding the connection of physical and socio-cultural elements of the place could serve as an indication of sense of place. The visual evidence of the area provides information on how these elements work and interact. These interactions will be assessed through a set of indicators which were produced based on a number of studies carried out concerning 'sense of place.' The indicators are used to evaluate how a place identity is visually remembered as in the visual dimension impact (VDI). VDI often relates to significance of memory of the setting of the place based on its characteristics and special elements such places are remembered, hence the sense of place. The design and usage of spaces of a townscape create this unique characteristic thus the visual dimension impact of the place.

Keywords: sense of place; visual characteristic, culture, historic character, historic city

1. Introduction

New developments in city historic character are vanishing slowly at a rate of cost percent in the city that possesses historic place. These ratios are around double times the development growth averages. In the region as a whole, a big percentage of the growth development in the historic city, and this is expected to exceed 40 percent by 2020 as the trend towards sense of place continues. According to the 2013 East Coast Economic Region (ECER) in Malaysia (Malay: Wilayah Ekonomi Pantai Timur or Korridor Pantai Timur) in ECERDC Annual Report, by 2013 the area investment of RM55.8 billion, well past the halfway mark of ECER's target of RM110 billion by 2020. An estimated amount on culture, arts and heritage it is expected to spend for the amount of RM11.62 million less for culture.

Historic city is defined as inhabited and provide unchanged archaeological evidence of the past; fulfils the criterion of authenticity and controlled by their state of conservation. New developments of the twentieth century ironically have been quite uncontrollable. Historical context is a means of organizing information about the historical properties that share common historic, architectural, or cultural ideas that represent the city's complex history and relate property types to those themes. The classic character is that the criteria have led to the choice of groups of buildings significant for their original facade and their details and the important historical context to the community. In the case of inhabited historic city, it has been seriously disrupted since the beginning of the industrial era and value as historical symbols under criterion on the World Heritage List in Paragraph 77 under the Operational Guidelines. The entire historic cities evolved along particular lines have been preserved, typical of the successive stages in their history. The "Historic centres" was an ancient city within modern cities and the character of the historic city is that it has disappeared or still surviving. Historic city encloses a large number of prehistoric buildings of monumental importance that provides a direct indication of the characteristic features of the city of exceptional interest.

Sense of place is defined as the area that brings to respond places as a whole set of cultural settings. Sense of place is justified by understanding the individual experience of a person's feelings. These include being stimulated, excited, expansive and so forth in a particular setting (Steele, 1981). Sense of place has significance of physical and social elements with thoughts that shape the unique, distinctive and appreciated aspect of the place. It may be within the historic city to the impact on city sites and their environment. The visual dimension result is the affective bond between people through place settings of a person's immediate surroundings, including both physical and social elements (Tuan, 1974, Jackson, 1994). The people orientation towards place is one's feelings about that place that is merged in the context of sense of place and historical meaning. Sense of place has multiple meaning as an experiential phenomenon of a site's unique and distinctive character and historical context (Relph, 1976; Norberg-Schulz, 1980; Tuan, 1997; Steele, 1981; Shamai, 1991; Carmona, 2010; Najafi and Kamal, 2011). The area created the sense of place that increases the visual dimension of meaningful places.

The visual dimension impact reveals the builders' holistic outlook between the existence and its ecological harmony. Sense of place gives life and character to people and signifies their meaning and individual identity to the place. Alternatively, the historic city has value in their society in its combination of characteristics that gives some special feel and character. Visual dimension also has many positive impacts on the historic city, such as empowering aesthetic preferences of the urban environment on perception (Carmona, 2010). The significances of the visual aspect on sense of the place of the historic city are less well understood than for new development in the historic city, and therefore deserve more study (Cross, 2001).

In being aware of the situation as stated above, it was now in Malaysian region significant mammoth development in the historic city is now taking place around these senses of place. Historic city around smaller urban centres may affect with a modest level of typical development of the metropolitan regions of mega cities. Although every place has its influence, certain settings have a strong sense of place tend have a similar impact on many different people. The historic city would survive the onset of rapid economic progress while maintaining their old ways of identity of a place that change in accordance with the pressures of the modern world.

In 2009, conserving historic city Getty Conservation Institute (GCI) meeting to identify key challenges to enhance the skills of local government, and doing pilot projects that embed economic development; examples of engagement of inhabitants, users, and visitors.

Defining characteristic of historic buildings in the city is their use may be integral to their heritage significance. The visual dimension impacts on the historical buildings and city areas that are compatible with their heritage significance. It also tells between the process and outcome of identifying the functions and values that are different. Therefore, the conceptual framework in which city maintenance takes place is also somewhat visualizing the size of the community from demographic and aesthetic preferences with the historic city conservation.

2. Research Objectives

This historic city study focuses on the impact of the visual dimension on the aesthetic preferences issues in the historic city, the second concerns on the appreciation of aesthetic qualities of place and aims to examine the roles of potential historic city. The analysis presented in this study fills a knowledge gap through an examination of survey data in the historic city of two small urban centres in the East Coast Malaysia region, Kota Bharu city. The results yield a more nuanced understanding of the policy issues that may be of a particular relevance to these areas, as well as to various similar constituencies in the region.

This research focuses on the perceptions local people have of the effects of urbanization on the historic city. Based on the classification of aesthetic types by Carmona, Heath, Oc and Tiesdell (2006) and the framework for the harmonious integration of Cantacuzino (1994), the author has classified the results of aesthetic on sense of place on the visual dimension impact. The visual dimension impacts from community engagement tools such as the demographic and socio factors were hypothesizing (Figure 1).

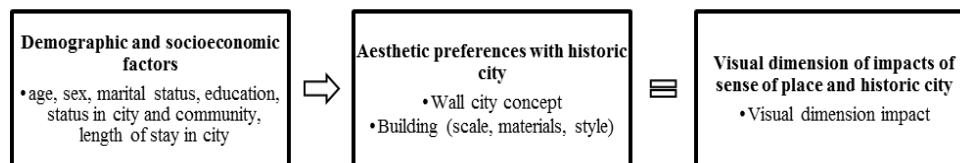


Fig 1: Conceptual framework
Source: Author (2017)

3. Methods

UNESCO has recognized Melaka and George Town cities as historic cities of the Straits of Malacca that have developed over 500 years of trading and cultural exchanges between East and West. The influences of Asia and Europe have endowed the towns with a specific multicultural heritage that is both tangible and intangible. With its administrative buildings, the religious centre, squares and fortifications, Melaka demonstrates the early stages of this history originating in the 15th century Malay sultanate and the Portuguese and Dutch periods beginning in the early 16th century. Whereas, featuring residential and commercial buildings, George Town represents the British era from the end of the 18th century. The two towns constitute a unique architectural and cultural townscape without parallel anywhere in East and Southeast Asia.



Fig2: Cultural Zone represents Kota Bharu
Source: Noor Fazamimah (2007)

A study review on the qualitative and quantitative work confirmed that the outstanding Universal value of East Coast Economic Region (ECER) covered Kota Bharu city in Kelantan city economic corridors. The demographic data represent final census population figures for 2010 Census (Table 1, Table 1.1, Table 2 and Table 2.1). Kota Bharu had the integrity criterion outstanding value represent remarkable imprints of historic aristocrat cities on the East Coast Malaysia tells a series of historical and cultural influences arising from their former function as trading linking with Siam and other northern parts. These are the most in-depth continuing historic city centres on the east with a multi-cultural living heritage originating from the Siam value the uniqueness with cultural strength.

Table 1: Total population by age group, sex, ethnic group, strata and state of Kelantan, Malaysia, 2010

Negeri: KELANTAN State		Strata: Jumlah Stratum: Total							
Jantina dan kumpulan umur Sex and age group	Jumlah Total	Warganegara Malaysia Malaysian citizens							Bukan Warganegara Malaysia Non-Malaysian citizens
		Jumlah Total	Bumiputera			Cina Chinese	India Indians	Lain-lain Others	
			Jumlah Bumiputera Total Bumiputera	Melayu Malay	Bumiputera Lain Other Bumiputera				
JUMLAH TOTAL	1,539,601	1,507,129	1,442,478	1,426,373	16,105	51,614	3,849	9,188	32,472
0 - 4	140,497	138,778	134,607	131,862	2,745	3,202	209	760	1,719
5 - 9	164,822	163,785	159,269	156,800	2,469	3,673	179	662	1,039
10 - 14	192,145	190,890	185,157	183,151	2,006	4,618	336	779	1,255
15 - 19	195,333	192,883	186,411	184,359	2,052	5,227	455	790	2,450
20 - 24	124,077	120,160	115,503	113,804	1,699	3,430	609	618	3,917
25 - 29	101,237	95,889	91,643	90,267	1,376	3,348	333	565	5,348
30 - 34	87,301	83,060	79,082	78,089	993	3,076	295	607	4,241
35 - 39	85,424	81,720	77,819	76,998	821	3,033	212	656	3,704
40 - 44	88,519	85,414	80,917	80,408	509	3,628	222	647	3,105
45 - 49	87,051	84,758	79,992	79,583	409	3,885	279	602	2,293
50 - 54	77,377	75,993	71,223	70,903	320	3,895	242	633	1,384
55 - 59	59,883	59,043	55,106	54,894	212	3,515	172	450	840
60 - 64	49,257	48,726	45,630	45,448	182	2,574	116	406	531
65 - 69	32,850	32,597	30,420	30,279	141	1,751	70	356	253
70 - 74	24,169	23,994	22,378	22,270	108	1,500	59	257	175
75+	29,659	29,441	27,321	27,258	63	1,659	61	400	218
LELAKI MALE	773,698	755,851	722,162	713,872	8,290	26,985	2,164	4,540	17,847
0 - 4	73,325	72,409	70,218	68,825	1,393	1,640	129	422	916
5 - 9	85,364	84,826	82,421	81,183	1,238	1,991	88	326	538
10 - 14	99,417	98,713	95,616	94,599	1,017	2,507	191	399	704
15 - 19	101,271	99,946	96,502	95,473	1,029	2,792	235	417	1,325
20 - 24	64,917	62,640	60,157	59,319	838	1,812	321	350	2,277
25 - 29	54,326	50,852	48,349	47,584	765	1,996	215	292	3,474
30 - 34	44,316	41,788	39,723	39,219	504	1,557	209	299	2,528
35 - 39	39,601	37,670	35,758	35,292	466	1,472	125	315	1,931
40 - 44	41,217	39,683	37,476	37,213	263	1,796	117	294	1,534
45 - 49	41,049	40,049	37,684	37,455	229	1,926	145	294	1,000
50 - 54	36,516	35,879	33,458	33,317	141	1,985	133	303	637
55 - 59	28,902	28,516	26,412	26,303	109	1,789	98	217	386
60 - 64	24,653	24,367	22,699	22,598	101	1,414	65	189	286
65 - 69	15,132	15,010	13,863	13,780	83	947	37	163	122
70 - 74	11,186	11,104	10,310	10,234	76	658	30	106	82
75+	12,506	12,399	11,516	11,478	38	703	26	154	107
PEREMPUAN FEMALE	765,903	751,278	720,316	712,501	7,815	24,629	1,685	4,648	14,625
0 - 4	67,172	66,369	64,389	63,037	1,352	1,562	80	338	803
5 - 9	79,458	78,957	76,848	75,617	1,231	1,682	91	336	501
10 - 14	92,728	92,177	89,541	88,552	989	2,111	145	380	551
15 - 19	94,062	92,937	89,909	88,886	1,023	2,435	220	373	1,125
20 - 24	59,160	57,520	55,346	54,485	861	1,618	288	268	1,640
25 - 29	46,911	45,037	43,294	42,683	611	1,352	118	273	1,874
30 - 34	42,985	41,272	39,359	38,870	489	1,519	86	308	1,713
35 - 39	45,823	44,050	42,061	41,706	355	1,561	87	341	1,773
40 - 44	47,302	45,731	43,441	43,195	246	1,832	105	353	1,571
45 - 49	46,002	44,709	42,308	42,128	180	1,959	134	308	1,293
50 - 54	40,861	40,114	37,765	37,586	179	1,910	109	330	747
55 - 59	30,981	30,527	28,694	28,591	103	1,526	74	233	454
60 - 64	24,604	24,359	22,931	22,850	81	1,160	51	217	245
65 - 69	17,718	17,587	16,557	16,499	58	804	33	193	131
70 - 74	12,983	12,890	12,068	12,036	32	642	29	151	93
75+	17,153	17,047	15,805	15,780	25	956	35	246	111

Source: Department of Statistics Malaysia Official Portal www.dosm.gov.my

Table 1.1: Total population by age group, sex, ethnic group, strata and state urban of Kelantan, Malaysia, 2010

Negeri: KELANTAN State		Warganegara Malaysia Malaysian citizens							Strata: Bandar Stratum: Urban	
Jantina dan kumpulan umur Sex and age group	Jumlah Total	Jumlah Total	Bumiputera		Cina Chinese	India Indians	Lain-lain Others	Bukan Warganegara Malaysia Non-Malaysian citizens		
			Jumlah Bumiputera Total	Melayu Malay					Bumiputera Lain Other Bumiputera	
JUMLAH TOTAL	652,825	640,342	596,594	594,539	2,055	39,856	2,294	1,598	12,483	
0 - 4	56,702	56,226	53,504	53,218	286	2,409	129	184	476	
5 - 9	65,977	65,608	62,601	62,449	152	2,760	114	133	369	
10 - 14	76,991	76,433	72,564	72,479	85	3,503	217	149	558	
15 - 19	82,196	81,108	76,478	76,154	324	4,131	318	181	1,088	
20 - 24	56,356	54,829	51,649	51,225	424	2,711	347	122	1,527	
25 - 29	46,163	44,006	41,142	40,775	367	2,593	169	102	2,157	
30 - 34	40,429	38,894	36,383	36,213	170	2,278	114	119	1,535	
35 - 39	37,799	36,320	33,806	33,677	129	2,284	118	112	1,479	
40 - 44	39,165	38,014	34,962	34,930	32	2,795	130	124	1,154	
45 - 49	38,720	37,866	34,548	34,515	33	3,036	168	114	854	
50 - 54	33,716	33,212	29,799	29,784	15	3,170	150	93	504	
55 - 59	25,255	24,943	22,098	22,080	18	2,675	118	52	312	
60 - 64	20,142	19,934	17,790	17,786	4	2,016	78	50	208	
65 - 69	12,964	12,875	11,480	11,478	2	1,313	55	27	89	
70 - 74	9,351	9,278	8,244	8,237	7	985	37	12	73	
75+	10,899	10,799	9,546	9,539	7	1,197	32	24	100	
LELAKI MALE	326,867	320,943	298,613	297,555	1,058	20,404	1,190	736	5,924	
0 - 4	29,902	29,660	28,279	28,138	141	1,202	75	104	242	
5 - 9	34,550	34,370	32,741	32,677	64	1,511	50	68	180	
10 - 14	40,143	39,891	37,806	37,759	47	1,845	108	72	312	
15 - 19	42,649	42,130	39,700	39,585	115	2,178	157	95	519	
20 - 24	28,529	27,786	26,209	25,987	222	1,354	163	60	743	
25 - 29	24,500	23,264	21,596	21,367	229	1,520	102	46	1,236	
30 - 34	19,794	19,083	17,852	17,758	94	1,121	65	45	711	
35 - 39	17,282	16,675	15,509	15,424	85	1,060	59	47	607	
40 - 44	18,111	17,635	16,176	16,162	14	1,351	68	40	476	
45 - 49	18,232	17,901	16,321	16,302	19	1,450	84	46	331	
50 - 54	15,928	15,715	14,007	13,999	8	1,581	84	43	233	
55 - 59	12,502	12,365	10,842	10,834	8	1,429	68	26	137	
60 - 64	9,900	9,786	8,646	8,644	2	1,084	41	15	114	
65 - 69	5,996	5,956	5,195	5,193	2	719	29	13	40	
70 - 74	4,263	4,236	3,699	3,695	4	509	20	8	27	
75+	4,586	4,550	4,035	4,031	4	490	17	8	36	
PEREMPUAN FEMALE	325,958	319,399	297,981	296,984	997	19,452	1,104	862	6,559	
0 - 4	26,800	26,566	25,225	25,080	145	1,207	54	80	234	
5 - 9	31,427	31,238	29,860	29,772	88	1,249	64	65	189	
10 - 14	36,848	36,602	34,758	34,720	38	1,658	109	77	246	
15 - 19	39,547	38,978	36,778	36,569	209	1,953	161	86	569	
20 - 24	27,827	27,043	25,440	25,238	202	1,357	184	62	784	
25 - 29	21,663	20,742	19,546	19,408	138	1,073	67	56	921	
30 - 34	20,635	19,811	18,531	18,455	76	1,157	49	74	824	
35 - 39	20,517	19,645	18,297	18,253	44	1,224	59	65	872	
40 - 44	21,054	20,376	18,786	18,768	18	1,444	62	84	678	
45 - 49	20,488	19,965	18,227	18,213	14	1,586	84	68	523	
50 - 54	17,788	17,497	15,792	15,785	7	1,589	66	50	291	
55 - 59	12,753	12,578	11,256	11,246	10	1,246	50	26	175	
60 - 64	10,242	10,148	9,144	9,142	2	932	37	35	94	
65 - 69	6,968	6,919	6,285	6,285	-	594	26	14	49	
70 - 74	5,088	5,042	4,545	4,542	3	476	17	4	46	
75+	6,313	6,249	5,511	5,508	3	707	15	16	64	

Source: Department of Statistics Malaysia Official Portal www.dosm.gov.my

The data showed final census of population figures for 2010 Census and coverage parts of the research to record in Figure 1. The demographic has impact on aristocrat buildings which show the details of architectural influences originating in the Siam periods. The building have retained their authenticity; associative involving a group that restored with appropriateness regarding materials, scale and style, in accordance with conservation principles.

Within the timescale and resources of the study discussed here, the fates of these two urban old cities reflect the critical issues. It initiates with the value of the characteristic of 'Sense of Place' with different sizes, emerged and grew over different period and time. The sense of the place on the historic city needed to proceed using what might be called 'Visual Dimension' approach. This leads to valuation and importance of 'Sense of Place' has triggered the scrapping an iconic of the historic of existing site. Kota Bharu city had a strong historical township naturally evolved landscape form by association with community and response to the area. The aesthetic preferences on the historic city of this study used historical significance and content of these two localities as item for analysis. The aristocrat district is the smallest administrative unit in Kota Bharu. This study was ongoing by using the methodological approach. First, secondary data were collected, documents reviewed to analyse historic city in Kota Bharu. Second, historic city profile was created to identify basic characteristics of East Coast city and key issues on visual aesthetic dimension impacts.

4. Discussion

The analytical framework is derived based on a simplified version of the list of possible value in the starting point, and it is important to have some overall concept of the former concern to provide a basis on which to make informed judgements on the latter. For the purposes of the research, a useful attempt to define 'characteristic of sense of place' using a set of principles was recently provided in good practice guidance on the treatment of Carmona's lens. These are tools in a set of 'Characteristic of Sense of Place' (see Table 3). To be eligible for the label in the List of characteristics of sense of place appraisal tool, the structure, materials, scale and, frontage of buildings primarily reflect the people or series of cultures that have driven the sense of place.

Table 3: Characteristics of Sense of Place Appraisal Tool

Characteristic of Sense of Place	Strengths	Weaknesses	Evaluation	Photo
Building			0 1 2 3 4 5	
Scale			0 1 2 3 4 5	
Materials			0 1 2 3 4 5	

Style			0 1 2 3 4 5	
Building spatial parameters			0 1 2 3 4 5	
Authenticity			0 1 2 3 4 5	
Personalization			0 1 2 3 4 5	
Character			0 1 2 3 4 5	
Responding to the local context			0 1 2 3 4 5	
Distinctiveness			0 1 2 3 4 5	
Local setting			0 1 2 3 4 5	
Ease of movement			0 1 2 3 4 5	
Well connected			0 1 2 3 4 5	
Pedestrian friendly environment			0 1 2 3 4 5	
Legibility			0 1 2 3 4 5	
Readable			0 1 2 3 4 5	
Easily navigate with the setting			0 1 2 3 4 5	
Quality of the Public realm			0 1 2 3 4 5	
Street activities			0 1 2 3 4 5	
Street vending			0 1 2 3 4 5	
Functional to public space			0 1 2 3 4 5	
Richness			0 1 2 3 4 5	
Street elements			0 1 2 3 4 5	
Topography			0 1 2 3 4 5	
Colours			0 1 2 3 4 5	

Source: Author (2017)

By using this appraisal tool, adopted key methodological characteristics from a number earlier studies to develop an appraisal tool that enabled the study of the interviewed during the research progress and to measure the transparent impact about the virtual study. The tools measure of the visual dimension against of performance criteria and their impact to the historic city rather than documentation and record of characteristic in the historic city.

The comprehensive qualitative type of studies focuses on the demographic and socio economic view factors that contribute to the historic city. The result of those mentioned factors perceived balance between the associated benefits to the visual dimension impact. The visual dimension that perceived impacts on the historic city by using the ranking of each item in six themes are namely; age, sex, marital status, education, status in the city and community and length of stay in the city. The appropriate view of the sense of place was the minimum necessary to ensure that a new development leased, and it makes sense to invest in conserving the design.

Similar analysis of the indicator ranking indicated that the most favourable visual dimension impacts approach was adopted to examine how building and environmentally sensitive impact through development process. The exploration on building and their value shows to be the material outcome. This is by seeking to extract the value of sense of place that influences the context of the visual dimension.

The results strongly point out those building qualities in the historic city being visual quality with values of relational environment. The history exists as a function of the views. The visual dimension impacts on such buildings and developments attempts to reinforce the notion of the historic place. This visual dimension also studies the impact of proposing the clearance of all old buildings in the world history of East Coast Peninsular Malaysia. These include Kota Bharu city that are redeveloping into high rise commercial centre. The history, culture and soul of the historic city are the most valuable and important to the next period and preserve as the appreciation to their history. By seeing the history city in new development and neglected their history. Cultures all over the world are differing, but the people made the place wonderful and meant to visual of their sense of place.

Chronological history of Kota Bharu includes identifying key periods characterized by overarching forces. They have shaped the historic Islamic city and driven all categories of land use and urban development in Islamic aspects. These are waterfront edge and the place setting. Aristocrat theme and it values also include architecture, community involvement and development, social history, economics, entertainment/recreation, ethnic heritage and politics/government. Chronological periods of significance and geographic areas are associated with significant introductions, innovations, trends, and declines of each important characterize architectural and development context of important events, persons, and places associated. Table 4 draws tools to identify the listing number of properties and district. This table drawn as survey initiation tool to identifies the number of properties and districts listed in the local, state, and national registers and the data will based on information provided by the Office of Historic Resources the latest data to be surveyed and listed as historic properties accessible in Kota Bharu.

Table 4: Survey Initiation Tool Levels

Federal level	National Register of Historic Places
	Property listed in National Register
	District listed in National Register
	National Historic Landmark
State level	Kota Bharu register of Historical Resources
	Properties listed in Kota Bharu
	Historical Landmarks
Local level Historical	Cultural Monuments and Historic
	Zones and preservation

Source: Author (2017)

5. Conclusion

Sense of place in the historic city reflects the visual dimension between demographic and aesthetic preferences in creating the sense of the place. Understanding the history and local aspects according to local history, and personal observation, the old town of Kota Bharu exhibits characteristics of a city of traditional Malay town. New development slowly vanishes the original features of Kota Bharu city and lack of awareness from authorities on the importance of conserving and protecting this sense of place. The research area has a strong

historical background, but its existing physical and non-physical elements are slowly vanishing due to this new development of culture. Several approaches are made to be further analysed and recommend for preservation the visual of dimension of historical place character that may surprise difficulties of sense of place in the Malaysian historic city. By using appraisal tool of characteristics the concept and criteria for the impact of study value sense of place in Malaysia society.

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