

ISSUE 3163/202





Which are Malaysia's finest real estate?
Who are behind them?

# **Responsible Developers 2018**

## Datuk Koe Peng Kang

Senior executive vice president, S P Setia Bhd



To us, the sustainability agenda is a journey, not a destination. The award which recognises us as a developer of sustainable developments is a validation of the values we have created not just for us, but for our purchasers, communities and stakeholders. It is a testament of our sustainability goals.

A sustainable development is one that creates or has a positive impact on its surrounding environment and community. We pride ourselves in not just building homes but sustainable communities for all.

Sustainable elements are carefully crafted and embedded throughout our project development lifecycles. They start from planning to design, to construction, right up to the analysis of social impact, economic costs and benefits to the surrounding

neighbourhoods and communities, not just for today but for generations to come.

Knowing that what we do today impacts so many lives and their future drives us to stay the course and remain committed to building sustainable communities for all.

This award recognises the effort put in to establish and drive sustainability as the foundation for all developments which is critical for the benefit of everyone and not just for the real estate industry. It provides added fuel to continue pushing for this agenda.

For Setia, our responsibility doesn't end with the handing over of homes but continues in the provision of supporting amenities and creating an environment that nurtures community liveability. Ultimately, a sustainable and thriving community is a measure of successful township development."

#### Kelvin Lee Chai Group managing director, AME

**Development Sdn Bhd** 



AME lives and breathes green! It is one of the basic tenets of our company – even the turquoise lines in our logo denote that stance.

We continuously strive to exceed the status quo, to ensure that every action embeds an eco-friendly practice, whether in planning the whole industrial park or an individual unit.

Winning the award puts

AME prominently on the map of
leading companies in Malaysia
that prioritise sustainability in
their business operations. This
allows us to highlight to our
stakeholders our commitment
and pursuits in this area.

On a personal level, it has been a very rewarding experience to be recognised for our efforts as we work towards building sustainable businesses and communities. To stay on course, it is important to have a clearly defined set of values, adhering to them in formulating business strategies and their execution.

We passionately believe that sustainability should be at the core of all businesses, where profits are not the sole determinant at the expense of social and environmental welfare.

Pushing the eco-conscious agenda generates long-term value for every stakeholder, because we believe that our actions today can have a positive impact on the larger society and nation.

I think the emphasis on sustainability actually brings out our role better: we are a property developer that wants to increase the value of the lands entrusted to us, to enrich the well being of all. The award motivates us to pursue greater achievements and make our brand synonymous with pro-environment actions.

More importantly, Edge-Prop Malaysia's Best Managed & Sustainable Property Awards provides a reputable platform for companies to share ideas, learn about new approaches and benchmark against best practices. I think it is important to acknowledge that every sustainability-based initiative will create a virtuous cycle, and as industry players, we build on each other to create a better world."

## Benjamin Teo

# Executive director, Paramount Property Development Sdn Bhd

Sustainability means different things to different people. For us at Paramount, it is about gaining the trust of our customers. And trust is earned when we consistently deliver quality products and services which meet the needs of our customers.

To be recognised for these efforts is truly an honour. I am proud of what the team has done and look forward to doing even better in the future.

Long before sustainability became a buzzword, it had already been embedded in our thoughts and actions even as far back as in the 1990s. During that time, Paramount was preparing to develop Bandar Laguna Merbok in Sungai Petani, Kedah. My father Datuk Teo Chiang Quan travelled all the way to Queensland, Australia to understand how to conserve the ecology along swampy riverbanks and apply it to our development. That was the level of commitment demonstrated towards sustainability even then.

We continue to operate in this spirit today, always guided by our company vision of "Changing lives and enriching communities for a better world". Our properties are designed and built with our customers' interest and wellbeing in mind. For instance, customers want to enjoy good facilities but with lower management fees. We respond by working on designs which offer better space efficiency and lower maintenance cost.

Our obligations towards our buyers do not end after we hand over the properties. When we do things right, the rest will follow.

The award has given us a much-needed boost to continue doing what we do. This is important so that we can spread best practices, instigate dialogues and inspire others."

