

## Editorial

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This issue yet again covers a wide range of topics, from the soft, human aspects to the hard, technical topics spanning developing countries from Africa to Asia. The untiring effort of the reviewers have ensured that quality papers have once again appeared in this issue.

Oluwatayo and Amole clustered the culture of architectural firms in Nigeria into three types: ad hoc/improvised, achievement-driven and staff oriented/responsive culture. The manifestation of any one of these cultures in a firm was determined by location, size, legal status and degree of formalisation. The experience, age and leadership style of the principals also influenced the type of firm culture. Overall however, the responsive culture was predominant while the ad hoc culture the least. As organisational cultures are largely dictated by national cultures, it would be interesting to find out what cultures are exhibited by architectural firms in other developing countries.

Mohamad, Nekooie and Al-Harthy examined the perennial design changes, this time on their causes, sources, impacts and preventive measures. Clients were the most likely source of design changes. Modification to the original design changes and addition of new work/scope recorded the top two highest weighted average, both emanating from clients. As for impact on design changes, the clients are most concerned with increase in design fees, the contractors loss of productivity and efficiency, and consultants delay to construction progress. A number of corrective actions and preventive measures were proposed at the end of their paper.

Public private partnerships (PPPs) have become the viable option for the provision of infrastructure for governments of many developing countries. Santoso et al. assessed and allocated key risks events for highway PPPs in Indonesia. Of the top 18 top-ranked risk events, eight were related to land acquisition process, with delays in land acquisitions scoring the highest risk index. Nine of the 18 top-ranked risk events revolved around the construction stage, with delay in disbursement of funds from investors recorded the highest risk index. Governments everywhere should take note of the findings of this paper which may be equally pertinent as far as risk management goes.

Onukwebu found that leaders influence training effectiveness of construction professionals in terms of training transfer (i.e. application of knowledge, skills and attitudes acquired during training to the job), training maintenance (i.e. reproduction of trained skills in a new setting) and training generalisation (i.e. adaptation of trained skilled to a more complex task situation). Less than ideal leader-employee exchange can malign expected training outcomes.

Design-build contracts in Nigeria are mired in time and cost overruns. Idoro found that plans used at the design and construction stages can help address these two malaises. The level of the use of project plans must therefore be improved. Interestingly, he found that project plans are ineffective in improving quality, an observation which requires further investigation.

There is a growing movement to make streets livelier. By observing two pedestrianised streets in a city in Malaysia, Ghahramanpouri, Lamit and Sedaghatnia suggest that a wider range of activities and attractions be offered to draw different groups of people (children, teenagers, seniors and the disabled) to live adjacent to or visit these streets.

As developing countries continue to progress, the quality of life takes on increasing importance. A survey found that the residents of a city in Malaysia were generally satisfied with the physical, social and economic aspects, though they expressed room for improvement for public transportation, political activities, cost of living and personal safety. Sustainable neighbourhood development policies must take into residents' concerns.

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