

## Looking to the future of building

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(From left) Lim, Roca Malaysia Sdn Bhd managing director Diego Jolis, Larsen Global Shoplight Sdn Bhd managing director Martin Michael Varga, Tay, Artwright group chief executive officer and managing director Yong Yoke Keong and Dr Tan at the Archidex 2019 press conference in Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre.

THE International Architecture, Interior Design and Building Exhibition (Archidex) is back for its 20th edition, promising to be the largest so far with a 20% increase in exhibition space.

Archidex 2019 will be held from July 3 to 6 at Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre.

Dubbed as South-East Asia's leading industry trade event, this year's edition will span 10 halls, including three new ones at the venue's new wing, totalling up to 24,000sq m floor space.

The four-day exhibition expects to attract 35,000 trade visitors from over 70 countries, including architects, interior designers and building industry players, who will come together to connect and collaborate.

Also, four country pavilions from China, South Korea, Singapore and Taiwan will showcase their best innovative design and technologies.

Held in conjunction with the annual Kuala Lumpur Architecture Festival (KLAF) from June 21 to July 7, Archidex is jointly organised by Malaysian Institute of Architects (PAM) together with trade and lifestyle exhibition organiser C.I.S Network Sdn Bhd.

"Building together across 20 years, we have put Malaysia in the eyes of the world, with Archidex being known as a niche marketplace for the building industry.

"Touted as a global gateway to South-East Asia, the event is a place not just for networking but also to gain knowledge and industry expertise, technologies and know-how," said C.I.S Network Sdn Bhd president Datuk Vincent Lim.

This year, a new feature will be the Innovation Hall at Hall 8, also housing PAM Pavilion of Tomorrowland, with exhibits for the global futurist to explore the possibilities in architecture and urban design for the future.

"The Digital Age is well and truly upon us, and this space sets the pace in building for citizens of tomorrow with key highlights on innovations, solutions and technological advanced products that are in line with the Fourth Industrial Revolution (IR4.0)," added Lim.

KLAF 2019 director Dr Tan Loke Mun said one of the highlights of Innovation Hall would be drone-flying.

"Visitors will have the opportunity to learn to fly a drone so you won't have to worry about buying one and crashing it," he said, adding that architects would be given priority to do so.

Among other activities are a range of concurrent professional networking events, conferences, forums, workshops and talks to build businesses and promote sharing of knowledge.

The annual International Architecture and Design Conference (Datum:KL) incorporates a three-day architecture and design conference, featuring a line-up of local and international speakers.

Biz@Archidex and Focus Forum@Archidex will discuss cutting-edge technologies and solutions as well as industry updates while Architalent is a design challenge for students.

Other concurrent exhibitions include Eco Building and Design Exhibition, Facilities Management and Cleaning Exhibition and Mechanical, Electrical and Civil Engineering Exhibition.

Meanwhile, the international One Day Design Challenge, will make its debut in Malaysia as a platform for young designers and architects to create original solutions to the bathroom space in just one day.

Artwright, strategic partner of Archidex, will unveil the Office of Tomorrow in the Innovation Hall, featuring a concept that showcases state-of-the-art furniture aimed at utilising space and resources effectively to boost growth and productivity.

"IR4.0 is coming at an exponential speed and as architects, we need to adapt to the changing times and find solutions that are sustainable and cost effective while upskilling ourselves to utilise these technologies.

"KLAF 2019 leads the way to think bigger and looks ahead to promote sustainable solutions for architecture that seek to minimise the negative environmental impact on the ecosystem through the use of technology.

"It is through Archidex that we will dive deep into the impact and effects of IR4.0 on all aspects of life, work and play.

"This is part of KLAF's efforts to empower global futurists to explore possibilities with the support of the Internet of Things, robotics, artificial intelligence, augmented and virtual reality, big data and block chain, among others," said PAM president Lilian Tay. This year will also see the 10th anniversary celebration of the Green Index Building (GBI) rating tool.