

## WORKSHOP SCHEDULE

This workshop will take place over three full days from 4 to 6 December 2017. The closing date for applications is **15 October 2017**.

## PARTICIPANT SPONSORSHIP AND EXPECTATIONS

Participant costs, including travel, accommodation, and workshop fees, will be covered by the SCHEMA project. Flights and accommodations will be arranged by the organisers.

Places are limited. Participants will be selected based on their experience, engagement across sectors, demonstrated flexibility and enthusiasm, and potential to contribute actively to this transdisciplinary workshop.

Participants are expected to attend all three days of the workshop and to engage in collaborative activities. They will be asked to complete surveys before and after the workshop, and to respond to follow-up queries six months later, all of which will be used to assess the workshop's effectiveness. Background material will be provided in advance. Participants may also be asked to prepare short presentations and/or case studies.

## VENUE

The workshop will be held at the Penang Institute, 10, Jalan Brown, George Town, Penang, Malaysia.

## ABOUT UNITED NATIONS UNIVERSITY, INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR GLOBAL HEALTH (UNU-IIGH)

UNU-IIGH was established in 2007 on the basis of an agreement between United Nations University and the Government of Malaysia. The mission of UNU-IIGH is to undertake research, capacity development and dissemination of knowledge related to key issues of human health. More information about UNU-IIGH is available from <http://iigh.unu.edu/>.

## APPLICATION

To apply, use the form available at <https://iigh.unu.edu/events>. Return the completed and signed form to [iigh-training@unu.edu](mailto:iigh-training@unu.edu). Please write "SCHEMA WORKSHOP" and your surname in the email subject. We will contact you if you are selected for participation and provide additional information.

## CONTACT DETAILS

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# Urban Food Systems and Health



## A Malaysia-UK SCHEMA Workshop

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## SCHEMA

Seventy-four percent of Malaysians now live in urban areas. Because our environments shape our lifestyles, provide or limit our access to goods, and expose us to risks, the design and operation of our cities has a tremendous impact on our health. The “Systems Thinking and Place-Based Methods for Healthier Malaysian Cities” (SCHEMA) project aims to improve decision-making for urban health and sustainability by catalysing the application of systems- and place-based methods to complex urban problems. In 2016-17 the project focused on the relationship between nature-based infrastructure and health in Malaysia. In 2017-18 it will examine urban food systems to achieve healthier and more equitable Malaysian cities.

SCHEMA is led by the United Nations University’s International Institute for Global Health (UNU-IIGH) and Cardiff University’s Sustainable Places Research Institute, with support from associate partners UKM-LESTARI, the Penang Institute, and Ark22. It is supported by the Newton-Ungku Omar Fund, co-sponsored by the British Council and the Malaysian Industry-Government Group for High Technology (MiGHT).

## THEME: URBAN FOOD SYSTEMS AND HEALTH

Urbanisation often exacerbates health challenges and inequities related to food security—production, processing, distribution, access, consumption, loss and waste. Unhealthy food choices and eating practices are linked to obesity and other non-communicable diseases. Food systems can also influence infectious disease risk.

The complexity of the interactions between urban food systems and health demands a transdisciplinary systems approach to enable better decision-making at all scales. The SCHEMA workshop will be a platform for stakeholders to share knowledge, identify needs, and discover intersections that support collaborations for enhanced urban food systems and health.

## WORKSHOP GOALS AND FORMAT

The goals of the workshop are to:

- Introduce participants to the importance of systems thinking and place-based methods in the context of urban food systems
- Equip participants to utilise these methods in their work
- Identify knowledge and action gaps in the context of food systems in Malaysian cities
- Generate ideas for research and interventions to meet these gaps, and to identify preliminary partnerships dedicated to these goals
- Identify funding opportunities and foster new collaborative research proposals
- Consider linkages between urban food systems, health and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

The workshop will include short presentations that outline key concepts from systems dynamics and place-based methods. Participants will explore the use of interactive small-group activities to promote co-operative learning among a group of transdisciplinary researchers, policy-makers, urban practitioners, and members of civil society.

## WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

We seek applicants from across sectors and disciplines who have an interest in urban food systems and urban health. They will come from academia, business, government, and NGOs.

We welcome perspectives from agriculture, architecture, community organisations, food science and technology, food loss and waste, nutrition, research, policy-making, public health, town planning, urban farming, and other domains. Individuals who have experience with multiple organisations, sectors and/or disciplines, and who regularly interact across these domains are especially encouraged to apply.

Workshop participants **must** be Malaysian nationals and currently based in Malaysia. They should be fluent in English, and have an interest in improving health through sustainable urban food systems and/or sustainable food policies.



George Town, Penang