

Connecting to Nature & Systems Thinking for a Better City

**Guest Speakers: Chris Ives (University of Nottingham UK) &
David Tan (United Nations University)**

Time: Wednesday 7 Feb, 6 PM

**Venue: University of Nottingham Kuala Lumpur Teaching Centre (KLTC),
Level 2, Chulan Tower, No 3 Jalan Conlay, Kuala Lumpur**

Connecting to nature in the city: Current knowledge and new directions for sustainable urbanisation



Being 'connected to nature' is increasingly recognised as vital for a good quality of life but increasingly difficult to achieve in the context of rapid urbanisation. In this talk, concepts of human-nature connectedness will be outlined based on insights from diverse fields of scholarship. The challenge of enhancing connections to nature in the new urban era will then be explored. Actions for connecting people to nature will be related to the vision of cities presented in the UN's New Urban Agenda before proposing a framework for how nature can be embedded in pathways towards urban sustainability.

***Dr. Chris Ives** is an interdisciplinary researcher with expertise in urban social-ecological systems and the human dimensions of environmental management. He joined the University of Nottingham in 2016 after holding research positions at universities in Australia and Germany. As an Australian, Chris loves the outdoors but is also fascinated by how cities function in different parts of the world. His research has focused on the values urban residents assign to green space, the ethics of conservation policy, the biodiversity of streamside habitats and ways of conceptualising sustainability transformations.*

Systems Thinking for Urban Health and Sustainable Development



Health begins in the environments we live and operate in. Cities play a pivotal role, both as the environments that are home to a majority to human beings today, and as engines of development that are shaping the global environment of tomorrow. The relationships that govern the operation of cities are complex, difficult to observe and understand. Systems thinking is a tool for tracing and exploring the feedback loops that govern complex systems. The talk will introduce the SCHEMA project, "Systems Thinking and Place-Based Methods for Healthier Malaysian Cities," which uses systems thinking for understanding specific problems and for facilitating communication between disciplines and between experts and non-experts to break down information and management silos.

***Dr. David Tan** is a systems thinking researcher with a background in environmental engineering. He joined United Nations University – International Institute for Global Health in 2016, where he explores the linkages between urban environments and public health and wellbeing. His interests include sustainable housing and transit solutions and figuring out how to get key actors in urban environments to see the impact they have on health.*

**RSVP: Wed 31st Jan to
praveena.chackrapani@nottingham.edu.my
(Refreshments will be served)**



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