

## WORKSHOP SCHEDULE

This workshop will take place over three full days from 10-12 January, 2017. The closing date for applications is **30 September, 2016**. Places are limited, and a selection committee will decide on the final participant list.

## 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 organizers.

Participants are expected to attend the full workshop (3 days) 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.

Participants will be selected based on their track records, engagement across sectors, demonstrated flexibility and enthusiasm, and potential to actively contribute to this transdisciplinary workshop.

## VENUE

The workshop will be held at the Hilton Kuching, Jalan Tunku Abdul Rahman, Kuching, 93100, Sarawak, 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. UNU-IIGH programmes focus broadly on:

- Planetary Change and Health
- Governance for Global Health

More information about UNU-IIGH is available from <http://iigh.unu.edu/>

## APPLICATION

To apply, use the form available at <http://iigh.unu.edu/news/news/promoting-health-through-green-infrastructure-approaches-a-malaysia-uk-schema-workshop.html#files>

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 after October 5<sup>th</sup>.

## CONTACT DETAILS

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# Promoting Health through Green Infrastructure



## 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. “Systems Thinking and Place-Based Methods for Healthier Malaysian Cities” (SCHEMA) is supported by the Newton-Ungku Omar Fund and led by the United Nations University’s International Institute for Global Health and Cardiff University’s Sustainable Places Research Institute. It aims to illuminate linkages between health and physical and social environments, and to promote the use of transdisciplinary approaches and systems and place based-methods to achieve healthier, greener, more equitable cities in Malaysia.

### EXAMPLE: URBAN HEAT ISLANDS, GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE AND HEALTH

Cities are consistently warmer than their surroundings. This phenomenon, the urban heat island (UHI) effect, results from built infrastructure in the urban environment that absorbs and traps heat, and from increased heat generation. UHI can exacerbate the consequences of climate change, raising baseline temperatures in cities and intensifying the health risks associated with heat waves.

Preserving and reintroducing greenery to cities can mitigate UHI effects. Green infrastructure such as parks, road-side trees, green roofs, and rain gardens provide shade, reduce the absorption of heat and generate evapotranspirative cooling.

Mitigating the UHI is important for human health and well-being, as higher temperatures lead to worse health outcomes, and even death, among the elderly, those with respiratory diseases, and other vulnerable populations. Elevated temperatures also affect physical activity, energy usage, economic productivity, ecological system function, and human comfort. Green infrastructure reduces these impacts while providing an additional array of mental, physical, and social health benefits.

Effective deployment of green infrastructure in cities is a challenge that cuts across multiple sectors and disciplines. This workshop will be a platform for stakeholders to share knowledge, identify needs, and discover intersections and collaborations for using green infrastructure in cities.

### WORKSHOP GOALS AND FORMAT

The goals of the workshop are to:

- Introduce participants to systems and place-based methods
- Develop a transdisciplinary framework to promote health through green infrastructure in Malaysian cities
- Build cross-sectoral and interdisciplinary linkages
- Catalyse ongoing collaborations

The main focus of the workshop will be a process of “collaborative conceptual modelling,” in which participants will be introduced to concepts of systems thinking and place-making. Armed with these tools, they will collectively explore challenges and opportunities for improving health in Malaysian cities using green infrastructure. The workshop will also include technical sessions on linkages between heat and urban health and

other topics, and a site visit to examine green infrastructure implementation in the field.

### WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

We seek stakeholders across sectors and disciplines with an interest in green infrastructure and urban health. Participants will come from academia, business, government, and NGOs. Perspectives from architecture, community organizations, engineering, environmental sustainability, research, policy-making, public health, town planning, and others are highly welcome. Individuals who have experience with multiple organisations, sectors and/or disciplines and who regularly interface across these domains are especially encouraged to apply.

Workshop participants **must** be Malaysian nationals. Participants should be fluent in English and have an interest in improving health through implementation of green infrastructure and/or UHI mitigation.

