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ARCHITECTURE is a powerful medium for expressing a nation's cultural identity, with architects serving as identity shapers.

Recognising this significance, the International Union of Architects (UIA), Malaysian Institute of Architects (PAM) and Kuala Lumpur City Hall (DBKL) will host a five-day international forum "UIA2024KL" from Nov 15 to 19 at Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre.

Themed "Diversecity for Humanity and Sustainable Growth," the forum aims to explore the intersection of diversity and urbanism, reflecting Malaysia's rich cultural tapestry and its commitment to environmentally sustainable practices.

Emphasising inclusive and sustainable urban development, the forum seeks to prioritise the well-being of communities and the environment.

Using Kuala Lumpur as its focal point, the forum will examine the concept of cultural identity within the context of multicultural urban environments.

By delving into modernism's impact and globalisation, forum attendees will gain insights into the evolving notion of cultural identity.

During its soft launch, PAM president Abu Zarim Abu Bakar

Global forum of over 200 speakers on sustainable urban growth announced



(From left) UIA2024KL advisor Datuk Tan Pei Ing, Ezumi, Abu Zarim, Hanum, Leao, UIA Region III vice-president Nivaldo Andrade and UIA Region IV vice-president Prof Dr Zhang Li at the launch. — Courtesy of DBKL

said the objectives of the forum were to provide opportunities for the public, architects, urban planners and policy makers to discuss culture, heritage, sustainability, equity and ecology to

achieve humanity and sustainable growth.

He added that with over 200 speakers from around the world and an array of innovative projects on display, UIA2024KL

aimed to address challenges faced by emerging economies and growing cities.

UIA2024KL convenor Datuk Ezumi Harzani Ismail anticipates more than 3,000 partici-

pants from around the globe to gather to exchange knowledge.

He said that as of December 2023, over 700 papers were submitted to be presented at the forum and that only the best 150 papers would be chosen.

UIA secretary general Rui Leao pointed out that the forum would not just be for architects.

"We extend our invitation to policymakers, urban planners, educators and public to join us in bridging the divide between on-the-ground realities and policymakers' visions," said Leao.

The forum was also expected to inject RM43.4mil into Malaysia's economy.

"The UIA2024KL offers a golden opportunity for us to exchange insights, absorb global best practices and cultivate partnerships that will propel us towards achieving our collective aspirations," said DBKL Project Implementation and Building Maintenance Department director Hanum Ain Zainal.

She was representing Kuala Lumpur mayor Datuk Kamarulzaman Mat Salleh.

"Together, let us work towards building cities that embody diversity, sustainability and genuine humanity," she added.