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First Announcement and
Call for Abstracts



Designing Salutogenic Urbanism and Built
Environment : Climate-Responsive, Healthy
Cities for Healthy Society

Kuching, Sarawak, Malaysia 28 Sep-02 Oct. 2026

Design & Health

15TH WORLD CONGRESS & EXHIBITION



Deadline
for
Abstracts
30 April
2026

Organised by:



Supported by:



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Healthy Cities for the Future: Revitalizing Health Through the Salutogenic Approach

The scientific program of the 15th Design and Health World Congress & Exhibition in Kuching, Sarawak, will focus on salutogenic approaches for promoting health and climate resilience.

The International Academy for Design and Health (IADH), in partnership with University Malaysia Sarawak (UNIMAS) and with the support of the Sarawak and Malaysian governments, proudly announces the 15th Design and Health World Congress & Exhibition.

For nearly three decades, this congress has championed the advancement of salutogenic design—creating environments that actively promote health and well-being. From its inception in Trondheim, Norway, to the most recent gathering in Singapore, the congress has showcased pioneering examples such as Trondheim Hospital and Singapore’s Khoo Teck Puat Hospital, both internationally recognized for their health-supportive design.

This year, we turn our focus to Malaysia, a nation committed to “Health for All” through a healthcare system that blends accessibility, affordability, and quality. With outpatient visits starting from just USD 0.24 and specialist consultations from USD 1.21, Malaysia offers one of the world’s most cost-effective healthcare systems, supported by accredited hospitals, advanced technology, and highly skilled specialists.

The World Health Organization emphasizes that individual health is profoundly shaped by lifestyle and environment. Health promotion—enabling people to take greater control over their well-being—is both a strategic and sustainable public health approach. Salutogenic design embodies this by shifting the focus from treating disease to fostering holistic wellness through our built surroundings.

The active participation of individuals in managing their own health and medical conditions is crucial. To effectively support and promote this dynamic system, new approaches in building design must incorporate salutogenic principles, fostering environments that enhance well-being. By good design, we can create hospital environments that not only optimize resource use but also promote the well-being of patients and staff.

Achieving this mission requires a multidisciplinary effort, uniting architects, designers, landscape architects, engineers, public health experts, technologists, psychologists, and economists. Through continued research, education, and policy development, IADH is dedicated to reducing lifestyle diseases and advancing the integration of health and design.



We invite you to contribute to this vital dialogue at the WCDH 2026 Congress in the Greater Kuching Healthy City, Sarawak, Malaysia, from 28 September to 2 October 2026. Submit your scientific abstracts and case study projects by 30 April 2026 and join global experts in shaping the future of health-promoting cities and environments.



Prof. Alan Dilani, PhD
Founder, International Academy for Design & Health,
Stockholm- Sweden



Prof. Ray Pentecost, DrPH
President, International Academy for Design and Health
Texas A&M University, USA



Dr Rosalia Saimon, PhD
Chair, 15th Design and Health World Congress & Exhibition
Kuching, Sarawak, Malaysia



Photos from the 14th World Congress in Singapore 2025.

Call for Abstracts

The WCDH Borneo 2026 offers a unique opportunity to connect with a premier global interdisciplinary network of leading professionals—from architects and designers to health planners, engineers, physicians, economists, and key decision-makers across disciplines.

We invite you to contribute to this important mission by submitting abstracts aligned with the following themes:

Thematic Tracks

Culture, Health, and Wellbeing – Exploring the integral links between cultural context and holistic health.

Healthy cities for people: Built environments to enhance health and wellbeing

Ecological Design for Planetary Health – Strategies for green spaces and sustainable design to address climate challenges.

Salutogenic Design in Practice – Case studies of healthcare environments that actively promote health and wellbeing.

Designing for Active Living – Creating public spaces, walkable communities, and accessible transit to encourage healthy lifestyles.

Innovations in Educational and Workplace Design – Enhancing wellbeing and productivity in schools, universities, and offices.

Inclusive and Accessible Environments – Design that empowers children, the elderly, and people with disabilities.

AI and Technology for Healthier Outcomes – Leveraging artificial intelligence and innovation in design and health planning.

Advancing Multidisciplinary Education – Fostering collaboration between design, public health, and related professions.

Authors are invited to submit abstracts of 300 words in English. The abstract should clearly state the objectives, methods used, results and conclusions. The paper will be presented to an audience with diverse interests and disciplines. Consequently, we are seeking presentations that focus on the practical importance of environmental design qualities that promote health and wellbeing.

All abstracts will be reviewed by the Scientific Committee. A limited number will be selected for oral presentation as full papers; others will be presented as posters. All papers will be subjected to a blind peer reviewed process.

All abstracts and enquiries should be submitted via website at wcdhborneo.com or email no later than **30 April 2026**.

Website: www.wcdhborneo.com

Email: abstract@wcdhborneo.com

Abstract must include a title, author(s), organisational affiliation, and three keywords. Papers chosen for presentation will be published in the Final Programme and Book of Abstracts, with selected papers published in journal World Health Design. The author(s) or co-author(s) should register and pay the registration fee in order to present the paper at the conference.

The official language of the WCDH 2026 is English.

Design & Health

15th World Congress, Kuching, Sarawak, Malaysia
28 Sept -2 Oct, 2026

Timetable

1 Oct 2025
First Announcement and Call for Abstracts

30 April 2026
Deadline for Abstract Submission

1 June 2026
Notification of Abstract Acceptance

1 August 2026
Deadline for Early Bird, Speaker Registration and Final Manuscript

Congress dates and schedule

The WCDH Borneo 2026 is a five-day event, held from 29 Sept - 02 Oct 2026, at Greater Kuching Healthy City, Sarawak, Malaysia

Monday, 28 Sept 2026
Registration from 13.00 - 18.00
Pre-congress symposium from 15.00 - 17.00
Welcome reception from 18.00 - 21.00

Tuesday, 29 Sept 2026 Congress & Exhibition
Late registration from 08.00- 08.30
Opening Ceremony from 09:00 - 10:00
Congress and exhibition from 10.30-17.00

Wednesday, 30 Sept 2026 Congress & Exhibition
Congress and exhibition from 08.30 - 17.00
Advisory board meeting of the International Academy for Design & Health from 19.30

Thursday, 1 Oct 2026 Congress, Exhibition & Academy Awards Gala Dinner
Congress and exhibition from 08.30-17.00
Academy Awards Gala Dinner from 19.30 at City Hall

Friday, 2 Oct 2026 Study Tours
Site tours and visits to local landmarks and health facilities

Registration

Whether you are in healthy cities, design, healthcare, urban planning, or policy, your voice matters. Join us to contribute to a vital dialogue that will redefine how we approach health challenges through design.

Secure your spot and help us design a healthier tomorrow!

Malaysian Delegates	Early Bird Rate (Before 31 March 2026)	Normal Rate
Individual	RM1600	RM1800
Group (> 5 pax)	RM1500 (Per pax)	RM1700 (Per pax)
Student	50% discounted rate	
Study Tour	RM100	
Academy Awards & Gala Dinner	TBC	
Exhibition booth	RM 8000	

International Delegates	Early Bird Rate (Before 31 March 2026)	Normal Rate
Individual	USD480	USD550
Group (> 5 pax)	USD440 (Per pax)	USD480 (Per pax)
Student	50% discounted rate	
Study Tour	USD30	
Academy Awards & Gala Dinner	TBC	
Exhibition booth	USD 2000	

REGISTER NOW!



Conference Website
<https://wcdhborneo.com>



Registration email address
registration@wcdhborneo.com



Abstract email address
abstract@wcdhborneo.com

Programme

28 th Sept 2026 (Monday)	
13:00-18:00	Registration
15:00-17:00	Pre Congress Symposium Multidisciplinary Professional Education for Sustainable Healthy Cities Prof. Dr Ray Pentecost, USA
18:00-21:00	Welcome reception (Venue: TBC)

29 th Sept 2026 (Tuesday)	
08:00	Registration
09:00	OPENING CEREMONY Opening Remarks & Introduction of the Congress
10:30	Exhibition/ TEA
11:00	Session 1 - Healthy Cities for People, Driven by People: Inclusivity, Cultural and Spiritual Health Prof. Datu Dr Andrew Kiyu, Malaysia Oral papers presentation
12:30	Exhibition/ LUNCH
14:00	Session 2 - Healthy Cities Innovation and Indicators: A Model for Preventive Cities Prof. Emerita Dr Keiko Nakamura, Japan Oral papers presentation
15:30	Session 3 - Salutogenic Urbanism: Bridging Climate Challenges and Reinventing Healthy Cities Prof Dr Alan Dilani, Sweden
17:00	Exhibition/ TEA

30 th Sept 2026 (Wednesday)	
08:30	Session 4 - Reinventing Cities as Constructed Ecosystems Dr Ken Yeang, Malaysia Oral papers presentation
10:00	Exhibition/ TEA
10:30	Session 5 - Sustainable Health Facilities Mr Liak Teng Lit, Singapore Oral papers presentation
13:00	Exhibition/ LUNCH
14:00	Session 6 - Health Promotion at Workplaces Prof. Dr Hiroshi Fukuda, Japan Oral papers presentation
15:30	Session 7 - Healthcare Designs for Older Adults Ar. Frankie Lip Chuan Lim, Singapore Oral papers presentation
17:00	Exhibition/ TEA

1 st Oct 2026 (Thursday)	
08:30	Session 8 - Smart Transportation, Walkability and Public Spaces Prof. Ar. Peter Poulet, NSW Australia Oral papers presentation
10:00	Exhibition/ TEA
10:30	Session 9 - Infrastructure and Health: One Health and Healthy Cities Prof. Dr Evelynne de Leeuw, Canada Oral papers presentation
13:00	Exhibition/ Lunch
14:00 - 16:30	Health Policy & Ministerial Panel Discussion Health Ministers from invited countries (Singapore, Japan, Australia, Sweden, Brunei, Indonesia)
20:00 - 22:30	Academy Awards Gala Dinner Category 1 - Healthy Cities Innovations Category 2 - Design

2 nd Oct 2026 (Friday)	
09:00 - 12:00	Study Visits to selected sites (Hospital, Public park, School)

The Invited Design & Health

Enhancing health, wellbeing and quality of life through environmental design



Prof. Datu Dr Andrew Kiyu (MBBS, MPH, DrPH, FACE, AM), Malaysia

Healthy Cities for People: Inclusivity, Cultural and Spiritual Health

Andrew Kiyu, professor of public health at Universiti Malaysia Sarawak, has over 40 years of experience in public health, including key leadership roles (as Director, Deputy Director of Public Health, and State Epidemiologist). He has been involved in the Healthy Cities Programme since 1994 and now serves as State Advisor for Greater Kuching Healthy City.



Prof. Dr Evelyn de Leeuw (MSc, MPH, PhD), Canada

Infrastructure and Health: One Health and Healthy Cities

Evelyn is the Canada excellence in research chair for one urban health at the Université de Montréal and a professorial research fellow at the University of New South Wales in Sydney, Australia. She has been part of the European Healthy Cities movement since its launch in 1986. She launched a new Oxford Open Flagship journal, Infrastructure and Health. Her current innovation efforts aim at the integration of (Indigenous) cosmology and spirituality, One Health, and Healthy Cities.



Prof. Emerita Dr Keiko Nakamura (MD, PhD), Japan

Healthy Cities Innovation and Indicators

Keiko Nakamura is a public health scholar with over 30 years of involvement in the Healthy Cities movement across the Asia-Pacific. She is the former Director of WHO Collaborating Centre for Healthy Cities and remains a key figure in the global Alliance for Healthy Cities.



Prof. Dr Alan Dilani (PhD), Sweden

Salutogenic Urbanism : Bridging Climate Challenges to Healthy Cities

Alan Dilani is the founder of the International Academy for Design & Health and the World Health Design journal. He is the author of numerous books, articles, and research papers on salutogenic design. Dr. Dilani has collaborated with universities worldwide, applying and advancing the theory of salutogenic design in both research and practice.



Dr Ken Yeang (PhD) Malaysia / UK

Reinventing Cities as Constructed Ecosystems

Ken Yeang is globally known for his pioneering approach to ecological architecture and eco-masterplans that have a distinctive green aesthetic. He works between the London office and Kuala Lumpur. He has built over 200 buildings globally and published numerous books and articles.

15th World Congress Speakers

Uniting the disciplines of architecture, design, psychology, health sciences and economics



Mr Liak Teng Lit, Singapore

Sustainable Health Facilities

Mr Liak Teng Lit is a prominent healthcare leader with over 35 years of experience in the healthcare industry. He is recognized for his transformative impact on Singapore's healthcare system. As the former Group CEO of Alexandra Health System and Khoo Teck Puat Hospital, he pioneered patient-centred care models and played a significant role in establishing Khoo Teck Puat Hospital.



Prof. Dr Hiroshi Fukuda (MD, PhD), Japan

Health Promotion at Workplaces

Hiroshi Fukuda, M.D., Ph.D. is an Occupational Physician specializing in preventive medicine, health literacy, and general medicine in the Department of Advanced Preventive Medicine and Health Literacy at Juntendo University Graduate School of Medicine, Tokyo, Japan. He is Vice President for Northern Part of the Western Pacific for the International Union for Health Promotion and Education.



Prof. Dr Ray Pentecost (DrPH, FAIA, FACHA), USA

Multidisciplinary Professional Education for Sustainable Healthy Cities

Ray is the director of the Center for Health Systems & Design at Texas A&M, the world's largest interdisciplinary center focused on healthcare facility design. The center explores how built and natural environments impact healing, patient care, and human behaviour.



Ar. Frankie Lip Chuan Lim Singapore

Healthcare Designs for Older Adults

As the Vice President of CPG Healthcare, Frankie provides creative, innovative and sustainable health-oriented developments, bringing together the company's breadth and depth of expertise in designing and implementing urban, health, wellness, social and ecological infrastructure. Frankie has designed and delivered public buildings and healthcare design in China, India, UAE, Pakistan, Malaysia, Vietnam, Brunei, Tajikistan and Afghanistan.



Prof. Ar. Peter Poulet Australia

Urban Transportation, Walkability and Public Spaces

Professor Peter Poulet is Director of the University of New South Wales (UNSW) Cities Institute, Australia. He is an architect with over 35 years of experience in the private, public and the university sector and a practicing and exhibiting visual artist. His professional background includes his current role as Central City District Commissioner for the Greater Cities Commission.

Organising Committee

International Academy of Design and Health

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Founder, IADH, Sweden

Prof. Ray Pentecost, PhD
President, IADH, USA

Charlie Olofsson
Senior IT consultant, IADH, Sweden

Angel Neo, CPG Consultants, Singapore

Sandra Surkamp, Director Chapter South Pacific, Australasia

Universiti Malaysia Sarawak

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Germany

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Farrow Partnership, Canada

Greater Kuching Healthy City

WCDH2026 offers a range of sponsorship and exhibition opportunities for international organisations to develop their businesses

Kuching, the vibrant capital city of Sarawak on the island of Borneo, seamlessly blends tradition with progress and continues to raise its global profile. Kuching has been recognized as one of the friendliest and cleanest cities in the world based on air quality, waste management, and overall cleanliness.

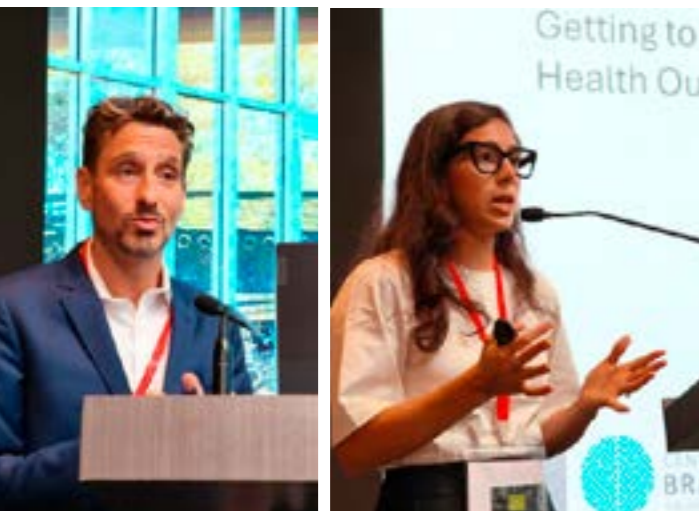
Known for its lush greenery, rich cultural heritage, and warm hospitality, Kuching is emerging as a forward-looking urban center committed to sustainability, health, and smart city innovation.

The city boasts an award-winning Waterfront, the Sarawak Cultural Village and a world-renowned Borneo Cultures Museum - the second largest museum in Southeast Asia. By 2027, the Autonomous Rapid Transit (ART) system in Kuching will be Southeast Asia's first hydrogen-powered, trackless tram, which will promote green, inclusive, and health-conscious public transport systems.

Whether you're drawn by its scenic riverfront, world-class museums, or its reputation as one of the friendliest cities in the world, Kuching is the perfect destination for a meaningful and memorable conference experience.

Who will attend?

- Hospital Directors/CEOs
- Clinicians, nurses and health professionals
- Health and urban planners
- Estates and facilities managers
- Finance directors and managers
- Architects, engineers and designers
- Medical technology companies
- Researchers and scientists
- Procurement/project directors
- Mayors and municipal representatives
- Construction companies
- Interior and landscape architect



Photos from the 14th World Congress in Singapore 2025.



Sponsoring

Sponsorship of the Design & Health World Congress provides you with unparalleled exposure before, during and after the event with thought leaders and decision-makers from across the globe. Associating your name with the International Academy for Design and Health, on this stage and at this scale, will reinforce your position in the marketplace.

Exhibiting

A prominent location and an attractive exhibition presence throughout the Congress are essential to attract visitors, meet potential clients, develop new relationships, and generate business. Booths are available in a variety of sizes to suit your requirements and budget. Combine your booth with sponsorship of a conference session or a corporate showcase to gain maximum exposure.



Specialist sponsorship

If you want to create a unique impression, a range of specialist sponsorship opportunities is available to ensure a strong brand presence. Sponsorship of breakfast debates, delegate bags, the scientific poster session, the Welcome Dinner and Academy Awards Gala Dinner, and the study tours all provide opportunities for your organisation to be seen as making a special contribution to the success of the Congress.



Academy Awards

The Design & Health International Academy Awards is the world's leading advocacy programme, recognising excellence in the research and practice of designing healthy environments. The awards are open to international organisations in both the private and public sectors. Each award provides a valuable sponsorship platform, associating you with best practice, winning projects and the Academy, as well as providing significant publicity before, during and after the awards ceremony on the final evening of the congress. The Awards will be open for entry in September 2016- March 2017.



Corporate Showcase

The Corporate Showcase Programme runs during the lunch and coffee intervals on each day of the World Congress. Each showcase is scheduled and promoted in the programme and comprises a 25-minute presentation aimed at generating profile and real business interest. This gives you the perfect stage to demonstrate your services, hand out materials, and answer questions from an engaged audience.



For more information about any of these opportunities

www.designhealth.academy

Phone: +46 70 453 90 70

Email: info@designhealth.academy

Design & Health Global Events Map

World Congresses

- 1st Trondheim 1997
- 2nd Stockholm 2000
- 3rd Montreal 2003
- 4th Frankfurt 2005
- 5th Glasgow 2007
- 6th Singapore 2009
- 7th Boston 2011
- 8th Kuala Lumpur 2012
- 9th Brisbane 2013
- 10th Toronto 2014
- 11th Hong Kong 2015
- 12th Vienna 2017
- 13th Milano 2024
- 14th Singapore 2025
- 15th Sarawak, Malaysia 2026
- 16th Sydney, Australia 2027



Symposiums

- Sydney 2010
- Toronto 2010
- Brussels 2010
- Melbourne 2011
- Cape Town 2011
- Sydney 2012
- Helsinki 2012
- Singapore 2013
- Doha 2013
- Beijing 2014
- Hanoi 2015
- Brisbane 2016

Corporate partners



International Academy for Design & Health
Head Office Solna, 169 56 Stockholm, Sweden
 T: +46 70 453 90 70
info@designhealth.academy
www.designhealth.academy



info@designhealth.academy
www.designhealth.academy