ACLA: Mission Statement

Of course, there are agencies that deal with cultural landscapes and associated architecture, heritage, habitat (rural, urban, peri-urban) planning and conservation and envisioned cultural landscape as heritage resource for sustainable development at different degrees, still there has not been any prime organisation that should deal Asia in its own historically rooted cultural forms. To fulfil this noble task and demand of the global scenario in which cultural landscape is not taken only as an impediment to development, but a heritage resource that can contribute to maintain environment and landscape serene in its nature, cleanliness in outlook, aesthetically beautiful, ecofriendly in interrelationship, socially cohesive, culturally awakened — in order to make Man-Nature integration and aliveness more sustainable, the ACLA (Asian Cultural Landscape Association) has been formed recently and declared on 3rd of December 2012. The ACLA shall highlight the ‘Cultural Landscapes as Living Cultural-Sustainable Resources’; foster the safeguard and sustainable use of the unique and diverse cultural landscapes and heritagescapes of Asian Region; promote the physical, natural and cultural heritagescapes, traditions, crafts and creativity as driving forces for overall sustainable landscape development.

Asian traditions have a chain in continuity of history and maintenance of such traditions as part of life-philosophy and life-ways. To make these traditions strengthened and universally work the Asian Cultural Landscape Association (ACLA), founded and declared on 3rd of December 2012, will function as think-tank and the path-way in this direction through policy advice, capacity building, good practice exchange, awareness raising, technical assistance, promotion of green pilgrimage, conservation of sacred sites and gardens, seminars and discourses and the facilitation of partnerships among the Asian countries and rest parts of the world. The Asian region consists of 38 countries (from Siberia in the north, to Timor-Leste in the south), inhabited by 2.62 billion people (2012), spread over an area of 40.91 million sq km; thus sharing a little over 37 per cent of the world’s population, spread over 27.47 per cent of world’s land area. The region is broadly divided into four sub-regions, viz. North & Central Asia, East & North-East Asia, Southeast Asia, and South & South-West Asia. In Asia total 204 heritage properties (48 Natural, 152 Cultural, and 4 Mixed) are inscribed in the UNESCO World Heritage List, thus recording share of 21.21 per cent in World’s number (total 962, in December 2012).

Virtually all landscapes have cultural associations, because all landscapes have been affected in some way by human action, perception and imagery. Therefore, the frame “cultural landscape” does not mean a special type of landscape; instead, it reflects upon a way of seeing and living landscapes and the associated attributes that emphasizes the interaction between human beings and nature over time — maintaining existence-continuity-transformation-transferability and transcendentality — all that together makes landscape a cosmic whole and complex heritage. According to UNESCO “cultural landscape” embraces a diversity of manifestations of the interaction between humankind and its natural environment. Cultural landscapes — ranging from cultivated terraces on lofty mountains, gardens, to sacred places — testify to the creative genius, social development and the imaginative and spiritual vitality of humanity. Cultural landscapes represent the “combined works of nature and of humankind”; thus, they are part of our collective identity, expressing a long and intimate relationship between peoples and their natural environment; Cultural Landscape is a “Design with Nature for Humankind”. This way ‘cultural landscapes’ represent visionary symbiosis and interpretive synthesis. As established notion “cultural landscapes” inspired by the belief that preservation and protection of globally, nationally, regionally and locally significant cultural landscapes, both designed and vernacular, are critical to sustaining the continuum of land use and history across generations. Therefore, protection of these cultural landscape resources offers inspirational values and an appreciation of past and present ingenuity, accomplishments, hardships, and hopes, as well as insight into future land use, design solutions and maintenance of heritagescapes.
Asian Cultural Landscapes from any part of the globe. It represents the cross-disciplinary and interdisciplinary study of cultural landscapes in both governmental and non-governmental organizations. ACLA is a non-political, non-governmental and non-profit democratic organization in the service to make the happy, peaceful and sustainable cultural landscapes of Asia.

The logo of ACLA is itself a testimony of metaphysical exposition of the aims and objectives of this foundation. The two sides ‘A’ symbolises the beginning and returning (‘A’) through the cyclic notion of continuity ‘C’, and attached ‘L’ denotes the locomotive function of longevity. Similarly, the letter symbolism ACLA constitutes distinct metaphoric illustrations, viz. A– Aspiration (from affectation to articulation), C– Connectedness (from cognizance to cohesiveness), L– Liveliness (from learning to liberation), A– Association (from accompaniment to accomplishment). In the light of inherent messages and cosmic vision, the ACLA would take lead in marching for deeper understanding and making bridges between Analysis and synthesis, Culture and nature, Laconic and luminous, and Allegory and allusive. This would justify the logo symbolism and further help to promote human march from known to unknown, visible to invisible, simplicity to complexity, finite to infinite, uniqueness to commonality, generality to rationality, periphery-core to core-periphery, fragmentation to consolidation, experience to exposition, realisation to revelation, thought to awakening, mind to soul, transformability to sustainability, ..., and so on.

Cultural Landscapes of Asia and role of the ACLA

• Asia’s unique cultural heritage lies in its historically rich and culturally diverse settlements and habitat systems forming a complex and highly developed fabric of human habitation. It is through this cultural habitat that the Asian culture flourishes, continuously undergoing a process of change, interacting with new elements, assimilating new ideas, thoughts, as well as the aspirations and creativity of its people, and the enveloping nature. The habitations are thus constantly renewing themselves while maintaining their unique and diverse culture and heritage.

• The uniqueness and the diversity of Asia’s cultural landscapes and heritages can be seen reflected in the morphology, building typologies, activity patterns, social structure, religious beliefs, pilgrimages, sacred sites and gardens, and varying associated traditions that exist in the villages, towns and varying forms of settlements.

• With the turn of the century rapid urbanization and more recently with globalization, the pace of change in all aspects of life has accelerated. The habitat systems and eco-environments of towns and villages are exposed to strong extraneous, fast growing agents disturbing the delicate balance among the physical, social, cultural and ecological habitat environments.

• To have deeper understanding, cross-cultural integration and strengthen the capacity of Asian cultural landscapes coping with these fast changes, the Asian Cultural Landscape Association (ACLA) is formed to take the initiatives for making Asian Cultural Landscape sustainable, eco-friendly and envisioning Green Pilgrimages, revival of spirit of sacred sites; and would also seek cooperation from international bodies like UNESCO WHC, UNDEP, IUCN, ICOMOS, Green Pilgrim Cities Initiative (GPCI), Alliance of Religions and Conservation (ARC), Sacred Sites Initiative, ‘Bhumi Project’, World Wildlife Fund (WWF), IFLA, IGU Commission on Cultural Approach, and other such institutions.

A Call for joining Membership of the ACLA

The regional, national and international organizations (and NGOs) and dedicated individuals with a strong commitment to foster cultural landscapes and heritage resource based sustainable development are invited to join hand for the noble task in promotion of the Network and action programmes for Asia. ACLA membership is opened for researchers of much broader area, such as architecture, geography, anthropology, archaeology, city and regional planning, civil engineering, landscape architecture, forestry, literature, arts, etc. and from any part of the globe countries. Such institutions or individuals should send a letter highlighting ongoing or planned activities in the field of cultural landscapes and heritage conservation and also their expectations from ACLA. They will subsequently be asked to sign the Membership Agreement and state how they intend to work towards achieving the common goals. The Executive Board of the ACLA will review the applications and decide on the
membership and the nature of the member’s contribution/s. ACLA will be governed and operated by (i) Executive Board, (ii) Advisory Board, and (iii) International Board of Editors.

**Activities of the ACLA**

- **Documentation & Communication**: Setting up a Knowledge Databank for Cultural Landscapes and Cultural Heritage Resource and an Expertise Locator;
- **Web portal**: Establishing an electronic communication network linking members through the internet facilitating partnerships and knowledge exchange, both in Asia and rest parts of world;
- **Public campaigns**: Organization of seminars, workshops, exhibitions, field trips, awareness drives, etc. for local communities, such as Cultural Heritage Walks, Green Pilgrimage Walks, Sacred Sites intimate experience camping, and partnering with Heritage Festivals;
- **Publications**: Publishing of a journal, newsletter, information brochures, and workshop papers;
- **Technical assistance**: Provide technical expertise to sites/culture areas in developing strategies for adapting existing state and municipal planning, legal and regulatory frameworks for cultural heritage protection and conservation; assistance in landscape planning interventions for heritage-based sustainable and balanced cultural landscape development;
- **Partnerships**: Brokering partnerships between members (Asia and Pacific regions, and rest part of world; Institutions, NGOs and Individuals) to exchange experience and good practice in cultural landscape conservation and development;
- **Training**: Organizing training programmes for members of the ACLA through Study tours, technical workshops for solution exchange and facilitating longer term training for capacity – building in urban cultural heritage management and development (rural, urban, peri-urban);
- **Thematic workshops and conferences**: Organization of workshops and conferences with the participation of experts from both Asia and other parts of world promoting co-sharing experiences, wisdom and realising the common roots;
- **Education and capacity building**: Develop a system of short term courses, mid term trainings, long term educational curricula for students, and green pilgrimage walks for practicing cultural landscape architects, elected representatives, administrators, technical staff and professionals.

**Charter - ACLA**

- **Recognizing** that Asia’s unique and diverse living cultural landscapes and heritage lie in its habitats (rural areas, villages, towns, cities, peri-urban areas) and associated cultural and spiritual values and alive traditions, like pilgrimages, maintaining sacred gardens, ecospirituality;
- **Keeping in mind** that the culture landscapes and character of our habitat system are based on and closely interlinked with the serene and sacred natural environment within and around them;
- **Acknowledging** that the Asian cultural landscapes flourish through the changing nature of urban fabric of cities, continuously undergoing a process of change, interacting with new elements, assimilating new ideas, thoughts, as well as the aspirations and creativity of its people;
- **Accepting** that rapid urbanization and more recently globalization have accelerated the pace of change in all aspects of cultural landscapes exposing our villages, cities and towns to strong extraneous, fast growing agents which have disturbed the delicate balance of their physical, social, cultural and ecological environments;

> **We, the members of the Asian Cultural Landscape Association (ACLA), declare to:**

- **Jointly work towards** strengthening the Asian cultural landscapes (rural areas, villages, towns, cities, peri-urban areas) to cope, with the rapid changes faced on the basis of their cultural and natural resources and related traditions like green pilgrimages, ecospirituality, etc.;
- **Contribute**, each in the remit of their roles and competencies, to the valorisation, awareness, knowledge and respect of the living cultural landscapes, heritagescapes and sacredscapes;
- **Advance** the close link between the development of the Asian cultural landscapes and the safeguarding of their cultural and natural heritagescapes and sacredscapes;

- **Raise awareness** of the uniqueness and diversity of cultural heritage in Asian rural and urban settlements, its tangible and intangible aspects, and of the benefits and potentials of cultural heritage and sacred sites conservation;

- **Use** the resource that is the cultural and natural heritage of Asian rural and urban settlements for the social, economic and ecological development and benefit of the common people;

- **Encourage and awaken** local community participation and help to create partnerships between the people, technical experts, and administration in the process of cultural heritage based development and conservation that promote sustainable cultural landscapes;

- **Foster** sustainable development of Asian rural and urban settlements, based on the strength of their traditions, cultural identity and social networks for meeting the contemporary needs of the citizens and raise awareness and awakening about their potential to develop into the vibrant 21st century centres with adequate amenities, transport systems and economies without losing their character and culture-historic assets;

- **Work towards** the alleviation of inner city poverty through employment generation, financial and social empowerment of its local inhabitants and neighbourhoods, while respecting the roots of the people, their culture, traditions, cultural landscapes and social networks;

- **Work towards adapting** the existing state and municipal planning, legal and regulatory framework to incorporate the protection of living cultural landscapes, heritagescapes and sacredscapes, and make vital issues like conservation and heritage based sustainable urban development a concrete part of the state and city’s overall planning process;

- **Build the capacity** of Asian rural and urban settlements, their administration, civil society and inhabitants to protect and conserve their cultural and natural heritagescapes;

- **Encourage** city-to-city cooperation and networking among local governments and urban/rural stakeholders of national and international member cities for sharing experience and knowledge.

*For further information and suggestion/s please contact:*

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(Updated: 20 April 2013)
Executive Committee, 2013-2016

ACLA - ASIAN CULTURAL LANDSCAPE ASSOCIATION

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ACLA Members: by Countries; 21 April 2013 [35 countries, total members: 225]

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<td>UNESCO</td>
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</table>
ACLA: Asian Cultural Landscape Association, is a recently formed (2012) global body of landscape profession with members from all the countries in Asia (i.e. thirty-eight), and also those concerned to Asian Cultural Landscapes from any part of the globe. It represents the cross-disciplinary and interdisciplinary study of cultural landscapes in both governmental and non-governmental organizations. ACLA is a non-political, non-governmental and non-profit democratic organization in the service to make the happy, peaceful and sustainable cultural landscapes of Asia.

Regional, national and international organizations and dedicated individuals/ institutions with a strong commitment to foster cultural landscapes and cultural heritage resource are invited to join hand to promote a Network and action programmes on sustainable development.

Please fill in the membership application form and mail it (.pdf or .jpg) back with a statement highlighting ongoing or planned activities in the field of cultural landscapes and heritage conservation to the executive board of the ACLA, Prof. Sung-Kyun KIM at: sung@snu.ac.kr, the Seoul National University, Korea; and CC: Prof. Rana P.B. SINGH at: ranapbs@gmail.com

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**Application Form**

(Please write in BLOCK CAPITALS)

Title (check √ all relevant): Mr. □ Ms.□ Dr. □ Prof. □

Surname: ____________________________

First name: _________________________________

Nationality: ________________________________

University/Organization: ____________________ Position: ________________________

Address line 1: ______________________________

Address line 2: ______________________________

Country: _________________________________

Telephone #: ___________________________ Fax #: ____________________________

E-mail: _________________________________

(degree) (year) (university)

Qualification/s: ______________________________

________________________ in from ______________________________

________________________ in from ______________________________

________________________ in from ______________________________

# Write within 250 words, your main contributions that directly deal with themes of ‘cultural landscape’

I wish to apply for a membership of the ACLA without registration fee.

Date ________________ Signature __________________________

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The Preamble

In the frame of Plutonian sense aesthetics refers to transcendent or sublime form of beauty that maintains incorporated proportion, harmony, and unity among their parts, which is elaborated by Aristotle conceiving the idea that the universal elements of beauty have been order, symmetry, and definiteness that together promotes the state of inspiration, reflected in the spirit of place (genius loci). The dominant ideology behind landscape aesthetics in Western tradition mostly deals with formalist scenic landscapes to ecological and phenomenological aesthetics; however in the Asian tradition in addition to these notions emphasis is laid upon the experiences in everyday lifeways and the deeper interpretation of the symbolic meanings manifested in landscapes. This results into the understanding of interconnectedness between Man and Nature, and exposed through interpreting the inherent and imposed meanings and contextuality that changes in varying space, time, function and cultural notions and symbols. This is how the trajectory of ‘meaning-metaphor-milieu’ envelops the cosmic frame of cultural landscape, getting it conceived as organic reality inherently possessing all the niches of human psyche, perception and environmental sensitivity and humility. Lowenthal’s (1961) paraphrased statement that ‘the geography of landscapes is unified only by human logic and optics, by the light and colour of artifice, by decorative arrangement, and by ideas of the true, the good, and the beautiful’, expressed the meanings and aesthetics in Asian cultural landscape. The Asian region consists of 38 countries (from Siberia in the north, to Timor-Leste in the south), inhabited by 2.62 billion people (2012), spread over an area of 40.91 million sq km; thus sharing a little over 37 per cent of the world’s population, spread over 27.47 per cent of world’s land area. The region is broadly divided into four sub-regions, viz. North & Central Asia, East & North-East Asia, Southeast Asia, and South & South-West Asia. In Asia total 204 heritage properties (48 Natural, 152 Cultural, and 4 Mixed) are inscribed in the UNESCO World Heritage List, thus recording share of 21.21 per cent in World’s number (total 962, in December 2012).

The cultural landscape is viewed as a product of a distinctive culture embedded in the associated history and traditions that evolved, practiced, continued, maintained, purveyed and envisioned in the structural frame of space-time-function. Their projection and contextual interpretation have been influenced by various religious and cultural traditions and occupations by different socio-political systems and life-ways. In the Western tradition aesthetics tend to concentrate on the context of physical landscape and visual quality, but in Asian tradition more emphasis is laid on the experiential and sacred aesthetic expression, what in a way referred as ‘eco-spirituality’ or sublimation of landscape, existing in relationship to their ecological contexts and believed to be deeply rooted meanings in Asian landscape and culture that in passage of time absorbed and transposed various layers of superimposition and manifestation but always kept alive the spirit of ‘organism’; thus, cultural landscape is to be seen as the existential insider.

In the above context the present ACLA Symposium-2013, presents a platform for mutual exchange, shared and co-shared wisdom and to understand the co-existentiality of the spirit of place and cultural landscape where the humankindness of the Earth meet with the transcendentality of Nature, and expressed through “meanings” and “aesthetics” illustrated with Asian Cultural Landscape.

There appear three broad approaches to quality assessment of cultural landscape with respect to meanings inherent or imposed, and aesthetics manifested, perceived and professed, viz. (i) the
ecological approach that emphasises and explores the causes and effects of spatial heterogeneity of the region, mostly though visual and field-testing methods, (ii) the architectural approach, focussing on investigating perceptual features of the region for its design, management and landscaping, commonly using “down-to-earth” experiences, and (iii) the cultural approach, projecting the historicity and human impositions of meanings and metaphysical expositions. All these three together in the frame of integral or holistic vision provide a deeper sense of understanding the “unity of Man with Nature” or “harmony between Man and Nature” — that also incorporates the principles and methods of landscape ecology (LE) and sustainability science (SS). It is felt that sustainable landscapes are more likely to be developed and maintained if the three pillars of sustainability — environment, economy, and society — are simultaneously considered as interlinking chain. Musacchio (2009) discussed six elements of landscape sustainability (or six E’s): environment, economy, equity, aesthetics, ethics, and (human) experience — all together to be taken as network and inter-linkage in making cultural landscape sustainable and happy habitat.

The Focal themes (but not limited to):
- Heterogeneity vs. Homogeneity in Cultural Landscape Aesthetics;
- Exposing the Meanings and Spirit of Place;
- Making Harmonious Path through Integrity and Co-sharedness.

Invitation

First of all, it is our great pleasure to welcome all distinguished participants to the 3rd International Symposium on “Meanings and Aesthetics in Asian Cultural Landscape”, organised under the aegis of the ACLA: Asian Cultural Landscape Association, at Seoul National University, Seoul, KOREA.

The feedback from the discussions facilitated by this Symposium may find future application in making cultural landscapes more serene and sensitive environmentally, aesthetically, visually and visionary in Asia region and serve as a model frame for other parts of the world. We hope this Symposium can provide inspiration to experts in creating and generating new models and platforms in this direction.

The Symposium’s schedule contains many activities designed to help and organize the networking of experts and practitioners in Cultural Landscapes and Heritagescapes in Asian region to facilitate the sharing of expertise for cultural landscape and planning.

We promise you that we will make every endeavour to ensure your time here is fulfilling, enriching and awakening. We wish to welcome you all and hope you have a wonderful experience attending the Symposium, workshops, and technical excursions.

Thank you very much,

Prof. Dr. Sung-Kyun KIM, Ph.D.
President & Executive Editor – ACLA (Asian Cultural Landscape Association)
Head of Urban Greening Institute, SNU Seoul, KOREA.
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# New F - 7, Jodhpur Colony, B.H.U. Campus, Varanasi, UP 221005. INDIA.
Cell: +091-9838-119474. E-mail: ranapbs@gmail.com

-----------------
Call for Papers, International Symposium: 12 – 14 October 2013.

- For 20-25 minutes paper presentations, we invite participants to submit abstracts and CVs related to the themed sessions:
  § 1) Heterogeneity vs. Homogeneity in Cultural Landscape Aesthetics;
  § 2) Exposing the Meanings and Spirit of Place;
  § 3) Making Harmonious Path through Integrity and Co-sharedness.

- **Deadline:** The abstracts submission extended by e-mail up to **25th May 2013**.
- **Abstracts,** maximum of 250 words in MSwd.doc file, and may NOT include figure/s and graphics.
- In the abstract, please include session topics, title, name of the authors including complete mailing address and e-mail, Tel./Mobile, in one MSwd.doc file.
- Your abstract will be reviewed by Scientific Committee. Authors will be notified about the decision regarding the acceptance or rejection of the abstract via e-mail by **10th June 2013**.
- Abstracts accepted for a paper presentation at the Symposium, should be developed as paper/s (3,500 - 6,000 max words in length; Harvard Manuel of format strictly to be followed), which will be published in the ACLA proceedings, and research anthologies.
- **Deadline** for submission of the full papers is **15th August 2013**. A template for full papers will be provided after acceptance as a presenter.

**Programme:** 12 – 15 October 2013

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<tr>
<td>0900-1200</td>
<td><strong>Session II</strong> (Exposing the Meanings and Spirit of Place)</td>
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<tr>
<td>1200-1300</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
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<tr>
<td>1300-1600</td>
<td><strong>Session III</strong> (Making Harmonious Path through Integrity and Co-sharedness)</td>
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<tr>
<td>1600-1800</td>
<td>ACLA Committee Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Technical Excursion</strong></td>
<td><strong>Workshop</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>0900-1800</td>
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<td>1800-1900</td>
<td>Farewell Party</td>
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<tr>
<td>0900-1200</td>
<td>Workshop / Discussion</td>
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<td>1200-1400</td>
<td>Closing Ceremony</td>
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§ Undergraduate Design Competition, and Graduate Essay Competition

Apart from International Symposium (12-15 October 2013), ACLA calls for two Competitions organised by SNU Urban Greening Institute, Seoul, on this occasion:

1. Undergraduate Design Competition

The purpose of this competition is to allow students to present design project of their studio works pertaining to conservation, revitalization, rehabilitation or restorations of cultural landscapes situated in her/his country. This competition is open to undergraduates from landscape architecture, urban and rural planning, and physical geography. The submission can include thesis or final comprehensive project of seniors in the aforementioned fields. Submission of the project shall consist of 2 A1-size boards in poster and softcopy. The board shall display site description, site analysis and concept, a Master-Plan, sections and elevations and 3D sketches. All figures or images shall be original and clear. The project will be evaluated according to the following criteria:- (i) originality, (ii) compatibility to site context and people’s culture, (iii) presentable level. The poster entry should be submitted by 30th July 2013 to Prof. Ismail Said, Department of Landscape Architecture, Universiti Technologi Malaysia, 81310 Sekudai, Johor, Malaysia. And, the softcopy should be emailed to Ismail Said at: ismailbinsaid@gmail.com

2. Graduate Essays Competition

The purpose of this competition is to acknowledge research field studies in cultural landscape situated in the author’s country. It is open to graduate students (Masters and PhD) currently studying in universities of Asia Pacific region, Students are invited to submit an essay of 2000-2,500 words. The themes for the essay writing could be similar to ACIA symposium which are:

1. Heterogeneity vs. Homogeneity in Cultural Landscape Aesthetics
2. Exposing the Meanings and Spirit of Place
3. Making Harmonious Path through Integrity and Co-sharedness,

However, essays on any topic related to cultural landscape of rural and urban environments are accepted. This may include essays on urban morphology, people and place relationship, children’s environment, and environment and behaviour. Submission of on essay implies that the work described is the original research done by the author in his or her Masters or PhD research studies, All essays shall be in English (American or British accepted, but not a mixture of the two). Authors who feel their English manuscript may require editing to eliminate possible grammatical or spelling errors may wish to use the grammar check editing from any authorised publishing agents. Submission of the essay proceeds totally online and to be submitted it in a single PDF file by 30th July 2013 to Prof. Ismail Said at: b-ismail@utm.my

The submission shall comprise of two parts:- (1) title page with title of essay author’s name, affiliation and e-mail address, and (2) the main body of essay which may include problem statement, methods, results and findings, conclusions and implications. The essay will be evaluated according to its comprehensiveness, integrative and critical in addressing the issues or problems of cultural landscape, and innovative findings to solve the issues or problems.

Deadlines (for both of the competitions, 1 and 2):

- Submission of the essay, poster, softcopy, write-up by: 30th July 2013.
- Announcement of the results by: 30th August 2013.

Prizes

Winners of both competitions will be given the opportunity to present their design project or essays at the ACLA International Symposium at the Seoul National University on 12 - 15 October 2013. For group submission only one individual shall present the group to receive the award.

1st Prize: fully sponsored with round trip air ticket, accommodation and food.
2nd Prize: fully sponsored with accommodation and food and partial funding on air ticket.
3rd Prize: sponsored with accommodation and food ONLY.