

## REGISTRATION SYSTEM FOR PROFESSIONAL TOWN PLANNERS IN MALAYSIA

### マレーシアにおける都市計画資格認定制度について

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本稿は、マレーシアにおける都市計画資格の認定制度について紹介している。マレーシアでは、都市計画理事会（BTPM）が認定を行うが、都市計画学会（MIP）は会員制度や教育プログラム等によって技術者の質を確保することで資格認定において大きな役割をしている。また、外国籍のプランナーの活動資格についても説明しており、関係者の参考になることを期待する。

*Keywords:* professional town planner, accreditation, Malaysia  
都市計画有資格者、資格認定、マレーシア

#### 1. Overview

The Board of Town Planners, Malaysia (BTPM) is responsible and handling all registered town planners, registered graduate town planners and temporary registered foreign town planners from all over the nation as provided under the Town Planners Act 1995 (Government of Malaysia, 2006b). On the other hand, Malaysia Institute of Planners (MIP) is responsible to establish and assure the qualified professionals planners with the appropriate knowledge, training and skills to promote the advancement of town planning in Malaysia (MIP, 2006a). MIP may also establish courses and undertake training programmes and cooperate with BTPM in accredited in university programme.

#### 2. Town and Regional Planning Courses / Programme

Generally, the programmes in town planning are accredited by Committee of Education and Career Development, MIP. The committee also play a role to advice, monitor and evaluate on town planning programme offered by related institution of higher learning/universities and liaise with government agencies on matter of accreditation, pertaining to recognition, planning education and profession (MIP, 2006b). In addition, accreditation of professional town planners and architects is also monitored and evaluated by 'Standing Committee Assessment and Qualification Recognition' (JTPPK) in Public Services Department Malaysia (abbreviated to JPA in Malaysian) which chaired by Minister of Higher Education (JPA, 2011a) as well as Malaysian Qualifications Agency (MQA) (see also MQA, 2010). This JTPPK committee was established in 1972 as a substitute Foreign Qualifications Assessment Committee, and the role is handling feasibility assessment and recognition of qualifications which allows holders to be appointed to the civil service (JPA, 2011a). This committee is assisted by Engineering Subcommittee which is responsible in accreditation of town planning and architecture courses (JPA, 2011a).

Furthermore, programmes in town planning offered by the local higher learning institutes/universities have emphasis on the technical and strategic, generic skills and capabilities necessary for a professional planner to compete in the employment market. Indeed, the learning outcome from these programmes is to produce graduates with technical knowledge such as principles of planning, ability on problem solving, creativity in designing, analytical & strategic thinking and competent in research and practice. The award requirement for an academic programme in Town and Regional Planning is at least 137 credits hours with the minimum 4 years period of study. The allocation of programme credits comprises the core skill courses (36.5%), core knowledge courses (33.6%), supporting skill courses

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(13.1%), option paper and elective (5.1%) and others (11.7%) (MIP, 2006) (refer Figure 1). Students from any university or institute of higher learning accredited by the MIP are eligible to acquire Student Membership of MIP with the recommendation of a Corporate Member (who may be a lecturer) .

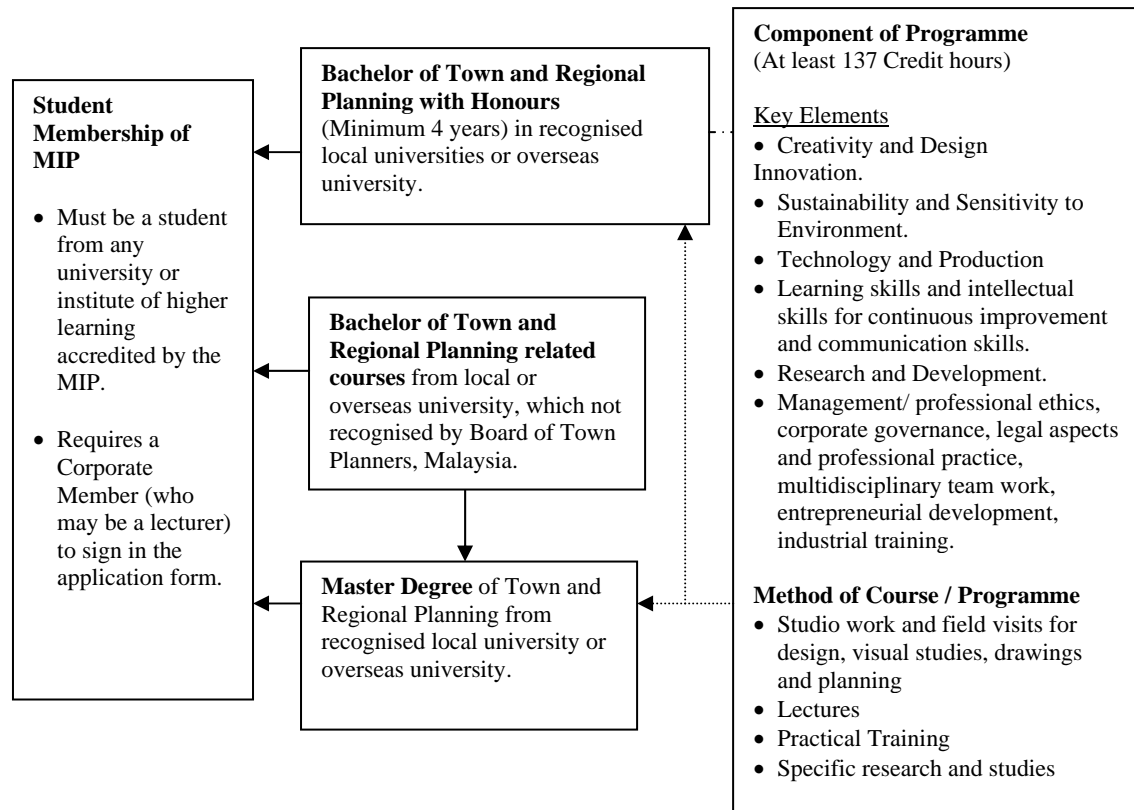


Figure 1: Town and Regional Planning Courses /Programme

### 3. Registration of Professional Town Planners

Student who successfully obtained a degree in town planning from higher learning institutes/universities and has at least one year relevant experience are eligible to apply for graduated planner (non-certified practising planner) (MIP, 2006c). Nevertheless, those students from unrecognised institute need to undertake master degree from a recognised university by BTM before eligible for graduated member. For graduated planners who intend to become a corporate planner (certified practising planner), they must have minimum 1 year period as a registered graduate member, two years working experience. They are required to submit a log sheet together with the application forms (MIP, 2006c). The log sheet is to be verified by the applicant's supervisor who must be a corporate member.

However, to become a corporate member, an applicant needs to undertake the MIP corporate membership preparatory course, which consists of four modules; 'planning law', 'land law and procedure', 'planning practice in public & private sectors' and 'planning administration system in Malaysia and town planners professional ethics and conduct'. Subsequently there will be an exam that requires the candidate answering three questions within two hours followed by an oral interview for admission (MIP, 2006d). After becoming a corporate member, planners also need to ensure continuous professional efficiency by earning minimum 20 'Continuing Professional Development' (CPD) points for every two years (MIP, 2006e) (refer Figure 2).

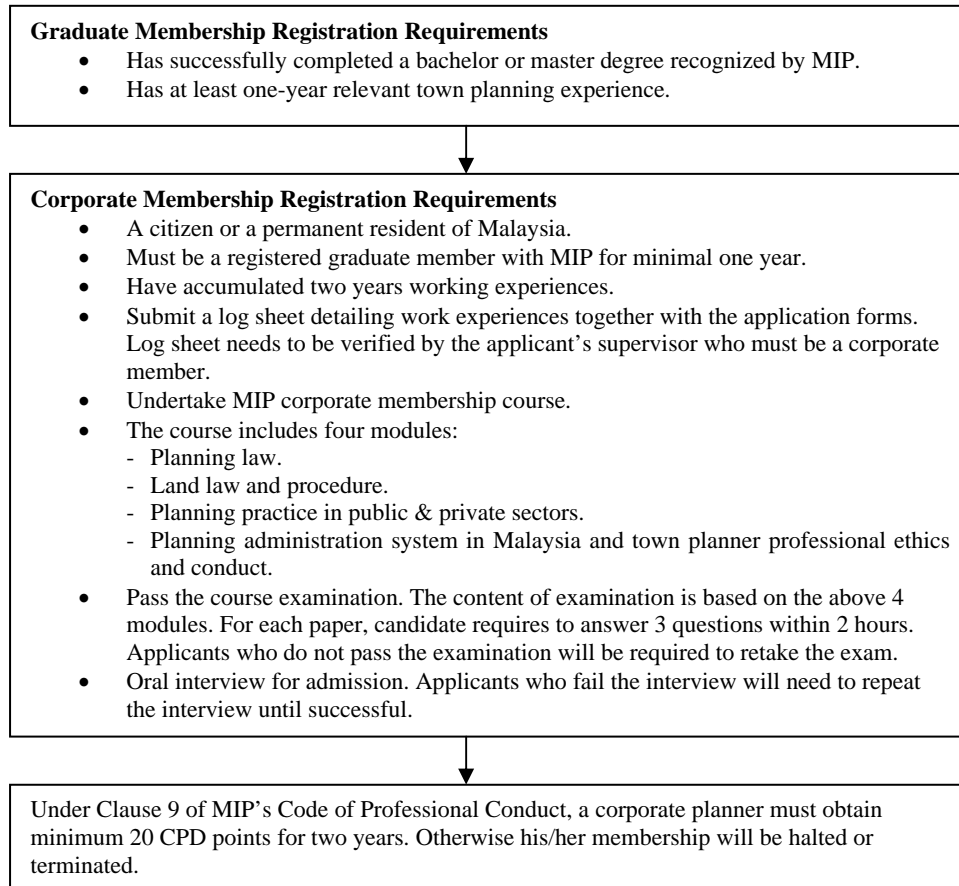


Figure 2: Graduate Town Planner (Non-certified Practising Planner), Corporate Town Planner (Certified Practising Planner) and the Continuing Professional Development (CPD)

#### 4. Registered Foreign Town Planner

As now, a person who entitled for register as certified town planner in Malaysia, must be a Malaysia citizen or a permanent resident of Malaysia, and residing for a period of not less than six months prior to the date of application (Government of Malaysia, 2006b:18). However, a foreign town planner may be considered for temporary registration, with the fulfilment of requirements namely (Government of Malaysia, 2006b:19):

- possesses the necessary qualification which is recognised for the practice of town planning in the country where normally practises;
- possesses the necessary expertise;
- physical presence in Malaysia for not less than one hundred and eighty (180) days in one calendar year or he is a resident representative of the foreign component of a joint venture.

The temporary registration may approve for a period not exceeding one calendar year and may renew when applicable (Government of Malaysia, 2006b:19). A foreign town planner who is dissatisfied with the decision of rejecting his application for temporary registration or its renewal may appeal to the Minister of Housing and Local Government within twenty-one days (Government of Malaysia, 2006b:20).

## 5. Concluding Remarks

Like other countries, Malaysia also has a comprehensive system to register and grant licence to professional town planners. It is with hope that more people can now understand the requirements to practice planning in Malaysia.

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