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# 'Raise funding for green spaces in 2018 Budget'

**KUALA LUMPUR:** Allocation for more green spaces to be gazetted and turned into functional and community-driven developments should be increased in the 2018 Budget, said the Institute of Landscape Architects Malaysia (Ilam).

Its president, Dr Osman Mohd Tahir, said urban, coastal and rural areas, as well as forests, should be given more funds to be developed and subsequently enjoyed by the rakyat.

"Green spaces should be increased not only for us, but also for future generations. We would also like to see incentives given to green projects and green approaches in architecture," he said at the SPARK International Landscape Architecture Dialogue yesterday.

Dr Osman said in order for all these things to happen, legislation for landscape architects should be put in place in Malaysia.

He said focus must be given to

the functional aspects of design, with the aim of connecting people to it.

"Creating space in urban areas is the main challenge. We have existing buildings and roads, so we have to look at how these spaces function.

"For example, the government's approach to expanding public transportation is an effort to address traffic circulation and the movement of traffic in urban areas."

The two-day dialogue is part of KUL Design Month 2017, a programme that celebrates the best that the Malaysian design industry has to offer.

The Landscape Architecture Agenda 2050, which was also mentioned during the dialogue, outlines the industry's goals in the upcoming decades.

The areas of strategic focus areas in the Agenda include conducive living, visibility, resource management and economic returns.



Dr Osman Mohd Tahir