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PLANS are afoot to have more trees planted within the Lembah Pantai constituency, including 5,000 in Taman Rimba Bukit Kerinchi, 200 in Bangsar and 33 in Kerinchi.

"A project called Rewilding of Lembah Pantai will see more trees planted within the constituency," said Lembah Pantai MP Fahmi Fadzil.

"This will encourage the growth of flora and fauna in the area and create a more diverse ecosystem," he said, adding that he hoped there would be similar green projects in other constituencies in Kuala Lumpur, to help reduce carbon footprint.

"If we see crows frequenting an area and contributing to unhygienic conditions, we should not fault the birds. Instead we should look at our own practices and how they are changing the world around us."

Fahmi was speaking at the opening ceremony of Spark – International Landscape Architecture Dialogue 2019 held at GMBB Kuala Lumpur.

The event organised by the Institute of Landscape Architects Malaysia (Ilam) was held as part of Kuala Lumpur City Hall's (DBKL) KL Design Month.

In his speech, Fahmi also spoke on the need to plant suitable trees in Kuala Lumpur, as some of the existing ones have damaged public property.

"Many of the trees in Lembah Pantai have ruptured sewerage networks in housing areas. We did not foresee that happening when we planted the trees 20 to 30 years ago," he said.

"DBKL is looking at having dedicated green zones, open spaces and recreational parks as part of the overall KL Development Plan 2040.

"Taman Rimba Bukit Kerinchi, which interfaces Bukit Gasing, has had some interesting work done with the DBKL Landscape Department, Forest Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM) and non-governmental organisations collaborating to replant jungle trees in that area."

The third edition of the dialogue aimed to get great minds to share the latest trends and projects on green architecture, initiatives and practices.

"We are heading towards utilising landscape for its functions and

Sparking green ideas

New project will encourage growth of flora and fauna to create a more diverse ecosystem, says MP



AECOM Singapore landscape architect Phuan Ying Zee presenting her points during the River of Life panel session.

addressing the issues that we have today, such as water, air quality and biodiversity. I believe green infrastructure can solve these problems," said Ilam president Associate Professor Dr Suhardi Maulan.

"In many parts of the world, landscape plays an important role, not only in terms of aesthetics but also for the betterment of the environment and social interaction among the people."

Some of the green infrastructures built in Kuala Lumpur lent credence to Dr Suhardi's point.

River of Life (RoL) session panelist, DBKL Physical Planning Department deputy director Norzaini Nordin, said green infrastructures helped balance the concrete jungle of Kuala Lumpur.

"Apparently if you are at Masjid Jamek, you can find *ikan patin* in the river. This shows the ecosystem is already altered by the RoL project," she said.

"It is an achievement, to have a river change from muddy monsoon terrain to a clean one with fishes that are now coming back."



Suhardi (left) presenting a token of appreciation to Fahmi after Sparks's opening ceremony. — Photos: ONG SOON HIN/ The Star

As for the backlash RoL has received, Norzaini said the return on investment was not merely the amount of money spent on the project but how the project has been recognised and served as a city attraction.

"People are coming back to KL to visit the RoL site, particularly youngsters," she said.

The two-day dialogue featured

presentations on local and international green efforts and infrastructure projects, such as a talk on The Jewel Singapore by Henry Steed and documentary screenings of New Orleans Water Management Woes and Creating Cycling Super Highway, as well as a session on living a zero-waste lifestyle, homelessness in the city and eco-engineering.