

IFLA NEWS



It was a challenging task for many countries to provide decent homes and basic infrastructure quickly and affordably. Cities' transformation into a liveable city-state with a world-class built environment requires dedication of the local construction professionals and close collaboration amongst government agencies, industrial players and other key stakeholders.

The journey for many Asian cities is different and many have compelling stories that captured the struggles of people, government and the industries. Cities like Singapore have gone through four broad phases, specifically in the building sector.

In brief summary, these four phases were captured as :

- **The Foundation Phase – 1960s to 1980s:** captures Singapore government's early efforts in construction development to tackle the urgent housing shortage crisis under the constraints of insufficient resources.
- **The Consolidation Phase – 1970s to 1980s:** focuses on how the building regulatory system was set up to improve building maintenance and safety, and how various institutions nurtured a quality construction workforce.

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This week's IFLA news is from the President of IFLA Asia Pacific Damian Tang

productivity and quality.

- **The Vision Phase – 1990s to 2000s:** emphasises construction quality, accessibility and sustainability for a greener urban future.

(Above extract from *Urban System Studies, Built by Singapore: From Slums to a Sustainable Built Environment, first edition 2015* by Centre for Liveable Cities)

In the same light as we see how cities grow and the challenges they faced, there are many parallels we can also draw for our profession and our member associations in order to align ourselves with our cities' agenda addressing any state of urgency.

In IFLA, every region and member association face different challenges as we are all in different phases of growth, strength and maturity. It is natural to set off our journey with a vision, objectives and action plans. But we must always be clear of our own strengths, weaknesses and aware of opportunities and threats ahead. As landscape architects, SWOT analysis is no stranger to us. However, we can also learn much from sharing our perspectives and experiences.

From our members: BDLA Event: '**Metropolitan open space**'. An International Conference held during the IGA Berlin 2017, a festival of the finest international garden architecture and green life culture in the city. More information about this can be found [here](#).

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