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Vol. 6

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Urban low-income housing and development

A case study in Peninsular Malaysia

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Preface

The research project of which the present study is the end result was initiated in late 1970, while I was affiliated with the Economisch Instituut voor de Bouwnijverheid (Economic Institute for the Construction Industry), Amsterdam, the Netherlands. This institution, in association with the Urban Development Authority, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, also supported fieldwork in Malaysia from early 1973 to spring 1975. This resulted in a report to the Malaysian government (Wegelin, 1975), which forms the basis of the present study. Improvement and extension of the earlier report to mould the study in its present shape has been made possible by the financial support of the Stichting Wetenschappelijk Onderwijs in Economische en Sociale Aspecten van Bouwproductie en Bouwnijverheid (Foundation for University Education in Economic and Social Aspects of Construction), Amsterdam, the Netherlands. The support of the above institutions is gratefully acknowledged.

The study owes much to the pioneering work on low-income housing in developing countries by Charles Abrams and has further been stimulated particularly by the contributions of Leland S. Burns and John F.C. Turner in this field. The recent development of comprehensive cost-benefit appraisal methods for industrial projects in developing countries by Professor I.M.D. Little and J.A. Mirrlees (OECD) and A.K. Sen, P. Dasgupta and S.A. Marglin (UNIDO) provided a challenge to apply similar methods in the area of low-income housing.

I am indebted to many people and institutions for co-operation and data used in this study. The continuing interest of Professor A. Hendriks, who stimulated me to undertake the study and provided moral support throughout the project is very much appreciated.

Of those who co-operated with me in Malaysia I particularly wish to acknowledge the co-operation of Mr. Harchand Singh, encik Ghazali bin Mhd. Ali, cik Hapisah binti Iman Lipat, encik Rusli bin Shamsudin, Mr. Siar Hooi Koon (all of the Urban Development Authority), and Dr. R.

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Regarding the views expressed in this study and possible remaining errors the usual disclaimer applies.

Emiel A. Wegelin

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