

## **Bio: John Achari**

John has thirty years' development experience in integrated regional planning, master planning, urban design, urban renewal & regeneration, architectural concepts, infrastructure master planning and strategic planning for mixed use developments. His leadership and management track record includes various senior management roles, design & project management, leading business units, client relations and management, business development and staff management.

John's professional experience in development and planning has been as a Client and Consultant in Australia, New Zealand, United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Oman, Bahrain, Qatar, Pakistan, Germany, Finland, the Pacific Islands, China and various South-East Asian countries. On the Client-side his responsibilities were department management and technical leadership including initiating projects, engaging consultants, design reviews, design management, financial management and internal reporting. As a consultant his responsibilities included department management and technical leadership including hands-on design, design management and project management of urban design, master planning, architecture and landscape architecture projects.

Prior to founding Achari Concepts John was Vice President and Director of Planning and Urban Design at WATG. Before this John led the Master Planning and Urban Design practice as Vice President for Parsons International Limited in Dubai servicing clients in the MEA region. He was previously an Advisor to the Ruler of Ras Al Khaima in the United Arab Emirates and worked for Emaar, the leading developer in the Middle East and one of the largest in the world initiating and implementing complex mixed-use developments.

John's expertise and talent for taking master plans from inception and vision through to implementation adds tremendous value in projects, ensuring a stronger bridge between the conceptual vision, strategy, economics and infrastructure.

John's extensive experience in the industry as a client and consultant gives him a valuable insight into critical requirements of projects underpinned by economics and technical viability and how best to manage complex approval processes. John has lectured in urban planning and design at various institutions and delivered conference papers and written articles on master planning, housing and, more recently, on the planning of mega projects through the application of new and smart technologies. He recently was invited to be part of a panel discussing tourism strategies for Maoming in China.

Currently John has a part-time role as Adjunct Professor at the National University of Singapore in the Master of Urban Planning degree program.