

Iskandar Insight



PRIME MINISTER VISITS ISKANDAR MALAYSIA

ASSISTING SMEs IN ADDRESSING GLOBAL CHALLENGES

PROJECT PROGRESS UPDATES FOR RMK-9 ROAD PROJECTS

ROUSING RESPONSE TO ISKANDAR MALAYSIA'S OPEN DAY

PRIME MINISTER

Visits Iskandar Malaysia

UEM Land Managing Director Wan Abdullah Wan Ibrahim (third from left) briefing Y.A.B. Dato' Sri Mohd Najib and Y.A.B. Dato' Haji Abdul Ghani on the projects within the Nusajaya areas



The Iskandar Regional Development Authority (IRDA) recently welcomed the Prime Minister of Malaysia, Y.A.B. Dato' Sri Mohd Najib bin Tun Abdul Razak, on his first official visit to Iskandar Malaysia on Thursday, May 21.

The tour included visits to the Iskandar Financial District at Medini and EduCity @ Iskandar, as well as to Puteri Harbour, an integrated waterfront and marina development in Nusajaya.

During his visit, the Prime Minister was taken on a helicopter tour of Iskandar Malaysia, South Johor's largest emerging economic region. He was accompanied by Y.A.B. Dato' Haji Abdul Ghani Othman, Menteri Besar Johor, and the Chief Executive of IRDA, Harun Hj. Johari. The Prime Minister and the Menteri Besar Johor are both co-chairmen of IRDA.

Following the tour, the Prime Minister was also given a full briefing on Iskandar Malaysia's progress to date. This included updates on all developments he had seen from the helicopter tour as well as status updates on investments, Ninth Malaysia Plan (RMK-9) projects, social development projects as well as blueprints of Iskandar Malaysia.

Assisting **SMEs** In Addressing **GLOBAL CHALLENGES**



Business-to-business matching meetings between SMEs and relevant agencies

A total of 110 representatives from the Johor Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) met Iskandar Malaysia's key industry players in a day-long seminar and dialogue session aimed at gauging the capabilities of SMEs in meeting the expectations of investors and foreign SMEs which would be coming to Iskandar Malaysia.

Facilitated by IRDA, the seminar held on Thursday, July 2, provided a platform for the SMEs - to obtain information and clarification on the facilities and opportunities available. There are currently some 26,000 SMEs in Johor, with 65% of the total located within Iskandar Malaysia.

"As active participants of Malaysia's burgeoning SME sector, IRDA believes that the SMEs have the potential to contribute substantially to the nation's economy in general and to Iskandar Malaysia's in particular," said IRDA Chief Operating Officer Hilmi Mohd Nashir.

Hilmi who spoke on behalf of IRDA Chief Executive Harun Hj. Johari urged the key players and all SMEs to work together to

upgrade their capabilities and capacity to meet the demands of investors and foreign SMEs who may be seeking alliances to expand their capabilities.

The morning session focused on information dissemination with presentations by specialists in the industry. In the afternoon, the dialogue and engagement session allowed the SMEs to meet with key players such as major developers, potential investors, authorities and financial institutions, to help identify and address any gaps which existed.



Participants listening attentively to a presentation

Project Progress Updates for *RMK-9* Road Projects



Yahya Awal Interchange



Ulu Tiram and Skudai
- Abu Bakar Road Projects



Ulu Tiram Interchange



Coastal Highway



TARGET COMPLETION

Upgrading of Jalan Kolam Air (April 2010), Yahya Awal Interchange (Oct 2010) and other road projects (2011).

IRDA RMK-9 **INFOLINE**. Enquiries on RMK-9 projects can be directed to: Tel: +607 218 3100 • Email: rmk9info@irda.com.my

CRIME Prevention with Safe Home Campaign

Datuk Mohd Mokhtar (second from left) and Harun Hj. Johari (right) at the launch of the campaign



Look at my artwork! - Young participants of the Colouring Contest



The highly energetic baton performance



Visitors at the police booth

The recent Safe Home Campaign saw the participation of almost 1,000 homes. Jointly organised by the Johor Police Force, IRDA Danga Bay and The Star, the Campaign was launched at the start of the school holidays on May 30 and ended on June 14. It was introduced to reduce crime rate in the region during the school holiday period.

YBhg Datuk Mohd Mokhtar Mohd Shariff, Johor Police Chief Deputy Commissioner, who launched the campaign at the Danga City Mall, said, "The campaign is a huge success even though participation was less than previous years. Some 1,000 policemen were assigned to patrol the participating homes. In total, they made 2,090 visits to the empty houses. As a result, there were no reported break-ins during the school holiday period."

IRDA's Chief Executive Harun Hj. Johari said that community policing was in line with the safety and security framework of Iskandar Malaysia.



YB Datuk Hj. Abd Aziz and Harun Hj. Johari (second and third from left respectively) visiting the enclave near Taman Universiti

The pilot project comprises six blocks of flats within a 4.5 acre site. It houses 1,089 units that are furnished with double-decker beds and bathrooms to accommodate 4,356 workers.

With an estimated 100,000 additional foreign workers required for the development of the region, the enclave is a long-term plan under the Safety and Security blueprint to mitigate the risks associated with poorly managed unskilled foreign workers. This is in line with making Iskandar Malaysia the first choice location to invest, work, live and play.

Nusajaya Assemblyman, YB Datuk Hj. Abd. Aziz bin Hj. Sapian who visited the pilot enclave said, "This commendable effort to address the foreign workers' accommodation issue is a proactive step towards improving the undesirable security, social and health risks brought about by unmanaged unskilled foreign labour in Johor Bahru."

The pilot project will be a benchmark for all foreign workers' enclaves in Iskandar Malaysia. All of these enclaves will be equipped with double layer fencing; a panic button connected directly to the Police for emergency purposes; biometric attendance and access systems; closed circuit television (CCTV); dedicated wardens and 24-hour security surveillance to mitigate any risks. Curfew hours will also be imposed to better manage the movement of workers.

The community in Iskandar Malaysia can now look forward to a safer and more conducive living environment with the unveiling of Iskandar Malaysia's Pilot Foreign Workers' Enclave near Taman Universiti on April 30.

The enclave was realised with the joint collaboration between the State Economic Planning Unit (UPEN), local authority Majlis Perbandaran Johor Bahru Tengah (MPJBT), the Town and Country Planning Department, Police, Immigration Department and Health Department.

Foreign Workers' Enclave Introduced



"This pro-active initiative by the Authorities and Government agencies is welcomed as measures need to be taken before any untoward incident happens. Besides, it is unlawful to house the workers in overcrowded shop-lots without basic amenities."

Rohana Abdul Hamid, 32

"Quality of life in this area and others surrounding it will be better in the long term because social ills caused by foreign workers can be mitigated by such efforts. Contrary to some suggestions, this commendable effort has not affected my business."



Lim Chon Hai, 45

Rousing Response To ISKANDAR MALAYSIA'S OPEN DAY

The Iskandar Malaysia's Open Day exhibition held on Friday, June 5, at the City Square Shopping Complex drew more than 50,000 visitors. Themed "A Vision for All", the three-day exhibition aimed to raise the public's awareness on the upcoming economic corridor.

The Open Day was launched by YB Dato' Haji Ahmad Zahri Jamil, Johor Housing, Local Government, Works and Public Amenities Committee Chairman who represented Y.A.B. Dato' Haji Abdul Ghani Othman, Menteri Besar Johor, who is also the co-chairman of IRDA. Also present at the launch were Mayor of Johor Bahru, YB Datuk Mohd Naim Nasir and Iskandar Investment Berhad (IIB) Chief Executive Officer, Arlida Ariff.

Visitors to the Open Day were given a holistic view on key social development areas such as infrastructure, environment as well as safety and security that were co-organised and supported by all the local authorities, agencies

and industry players in Iskandar Malaysia. The exhibition also helped raise awareness on how new investments help create job opportunities in various sectors.

More than 15 partners of Iskandar Malaysia participated in the exhibition, which included, among others, the Johor State Investment Centre (JSIC), Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI), Malaysia Industrial Development Authority (MIDA), IIB, UEM Land Berhad, Johor Corp, Port of Tanjung Pelepas, Senai Airport, MSC Cyberport, the Royal Malaysian Police (PDRM) and Jabatan Bomba dan Penyelamat.

IRDA Chief Executive, Harun Hj. Johari said, "The response to the Open Day was very encouraging and the Authority welcomed the numerous feedbacks received from the public. We believe that the Open Day met its objective of creating higher awareness among the public on Iskandar Malaysia."



YB Dato' Haji Ahmad Zahri (second from right) at the launch ceremony



The Lego Challenge spurred much creativity amongst the participants



Interactive quizzes on Iskandar Malaysia kept visitors engaged throughout the day



A Fire and Rescue Department officer (right) explaining the features of the Rapid Response Vehicles