

## Memorandum of Agreement Signing between Johor Land Berhad and Institute Sultan Iskandar



**Johor Bahru, 3 September 2013** - Institute Sultan Iskandar (ISI) and Johor Land Berhad had signed a Memorandum of Agreement, the former to undertake a study pertaining to the ownership of real property in Iskandar Malaysia of which the findings would be used in charting strategic actions for the Economic Transformation Programme (ETP) for the Bumiputra in Johor, particularly those in Iskandar Malaysia. The 5 month research will be undertaken in collaboration with Applied Economic Research Group and the K-Economy Research Alliance, Universiti Teknologi Malaysia.

Johor Land Berhad was represented by its managing director Tuan Haji Lukman Abu Bakar and ISI represented by the Executive Director, Prof. Dr. Mohd Hamdan Ahmad. The signing ceremony was witnessed by the Menteri Besar of Johor, Yang Berbahagia Datuk Seri Mohamed Khaled Nordin, who is also Chairman of Johor Corporation. Also attended, Tan Sri Abdul Halim Ali, Chairman for ISI Board of Trustees and Prof. Ir. Dr. Wahid Omar, Vice Chancellor of Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM).

The government is concerned with the housing needs of the nation. Various policies have been carried out since the nation's independence in 1957, related to the people's economic empow-

erment in housing. Dasar Ekonomi Baru (DEB), which has made it to Malaysia's 10th Development Plan (RMKe-10) has introduced various forms of housing plans in general and affordable housing for the indigenous people in particular. In September 2013, the Prime Minister announced the Bumiputra Economic Empowerment Agenda. Among the strategies adopted, one is to increase the value of financial and non-financial assets owned by the natives to increase equity and achieve the 30% target by 2020.

However, of late this affordable housing problem has been posing more seriously than ever. It must be seen as an important agenda that not only affects the socio-economic landscape of the natives but also the socio-political status of the Malay. When the housing market rates become unaffordable for the natives with low purchase power, they are focused to live where homes were affordable. As a result, the indigenous socio-political landscape will change. Accordingly, the study was undertaken to identify the status of housing affordability for the indigenous people, who stereotypically suffer from lower financial capacity; and find a solution to the problem of affordable housing as posed in Iskandar Malaysia. Data on indigenous property ownership, purchase power, patterns of property transfer, property market patterns, factors affecting the value and rent will be collected for qualitative analyses. A solution will be formulated for the empowerment of indigenous people's ownership of properties in Iskandar Malaysia.



#### About ISI

Institute Sultan Iskandar of Urban Habitat and Highrise (ISI) is an independent non-profit making research and development, serving the Government, private sector and the university. Gazetted as an approved institution, ISI operates within the UTM campuses in Johor Bahru and Kuala Lumpur.

## Pasir Gudang-Nusajaya Innovation Belt

JOHOR BAHRU, 1 July 2013 - Pasir Gudang - Nusajaya Innovation Belt is a new initiative dedicated to scientific research and discovery in Iskandar Malaysia. The project draws its inspiration from Tsukuba, Japan, a city designed and developed in the 60's for the sole purpose of advancement in science. The belt stretches between Pasir Gudang and Nusajaya, an area rich in economic and educational infrastructure, with the central command hub located at the main campus of Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM), in Skudai.

The concept is being conceived to enhance the existing and future development of Centre of Excellence (CoEs) in line with the vision of Iskandar Malaysia (IM) as a metropolis of international standing. Based on the existing CoEs notably UTM and other learning and research centres can be developed to provide further impetus in R&D and promote scientific discovery in the region. The Nusajaya-Pasir Gudang has been identified as the innovation belt, it is also the location of four of the five flagship of IM.

Initially this project is expected to pave for potential venture through twinning with Tsukuba University. Iskandar Regional Development Authority (IRDA) has been highlighted to facilitate and promote the establishment of the Innovation Belt, wherein R&D in the identified economic clusters can be reemphasized and given special focus.

## Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM) Campus Development, Bandar Penawar

As requested by the Pejabat Harta Bina, Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (PHB), ISI had submitted a technical and financial proposal for the development of the 311.3 acre UTM land.

The development is located at the Lembaga Kemajuan Johor Tenggara (KEJORA). The preparation of the master plan inclusive of the Development Order approval process is expected to be completed in about four to six months.



### Assoc. Prof. Dr. Faridah Shafii to perform Hajj

BANGI, 8 September 2013 - Assoc. Prof. Dr Faridah will be away for Hajj from 9 October till 9 November 2013. The management and staff wish her "selamat Mengerjakan Ibadah Haji, Semoga mendapat Haji yang Mabruur".

## UTM-MIT Sustainable Cities

JOHOR BAHRU, 1 July 2013 - Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM) in collaboration with the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) of the United States had signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for collaborative research on sustainable cities. Through such collaborative research, appropriate solutions would be found to address problems related to rapid urbanisation in the country and major cities in South Asia.

The research study began this year until 2017 and regarded as a high-impact project to be led by Professor Dr. Mohd Hamdan Ahmad (UTM-ISI) and Professor Larry Suskind (MIT). The main objective of this research is to create a system of urban population and the unique, comfortable, safe and sustainable urban areas specially for Iskandar Malaysia, Putrajaya, Kuala Lumpur and Penang. Among the programs planned in conjunction with this joint research include exchange of expertise/ researchers from UTM and MIT, as well as placement of UTM students at MIT.

The results of this project will be in the form of learning and research materials in creating sustainable cities, that can provide benefits of universal significance.

The project cost of USD7.5m is to be utilised within 5 years.



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## Collaborative Research between Jabatan Kerja Raya Malaysia (JKR) and Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM)

1 September 2013 - JKR and ISI-UTM are desirous to jointly undertake a collaborative research entitled 'Centre of Excellence towards JKR as a World Class Service Provider'. This research is important because JKR has over the years become driving force on various infrastructural developments and construction of government properties such as office buildings, schools, police stations and residential quarters for government staff. However, with the new challenges and expectation, JKR has to continuously elevate its capacity in delivery and assets management through focus human capital development and appropriate work environment and culture. There is a need for transformation of JKR into an excellent national agency equip with highly competent workforces and up to date facilities.

JKR aspires to become a strong knowledge and asset management centre that is ready to engage in exporting its services, while able to conduct post occupancy research of the completed work. A collaborative research team comprising of staff from various disciplines from both JKR and ISI-UTM is being set up. For this collaborative research, JKR agrees to pay ISI-UTM the fund amounting to RM1.8m.

## Iskandar Malaysia Research Centre (IMREC) merged with ISI

JOHOR BAHRU, 1 July 2013 - With the merger of Iskandar Malaysia Research Centre (IMREC) with ISI, 7 IMREC staff had officially joined ISI commencing 1 July 2013. All office equipments, files and furniture had been transferred to ISI office at UTM Johor Bahru.

## Workshop with Professor Dr. Derek C. Nicholls from Cambridge University



JOHOR BAHRU, 16 September 2013 - A half day workshop has been held at Dewan Sultan Iskandar hall on 18 September 2013. A facilitator, Prof Dr Derek C Nicholls, former faculty member of the Department of Land Economy, University of Cambridge was invited as guest speaker who spoke on affordable housing in the United Kingdom. The workshop

was held in conjunction with the contract research being currently by the Institute on the Bumiputera Property Ownership in Iskandar Malaysia (IM). The research is aimed at coming up with appropriate recommendations towards consolidating and enhancing Bumiputera property ownership in the economic region.

The main purpose of this workshop is basically to align the Term of Reference (TOR) so that it achievable within the time frame. Institute Sultan Iskandar (ISI) and Johor Land Berhad had signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) on 3 September 2013 to study on the Bumiputera Property Ownership (BPO) in Iskandar Malaysia and this study expected finish at the end of November.



## Visit by Tan Sri Abdul Halim Ali to Institute Sultan Iskandar Johor Bahru Office

JOHOR BAHRU, 3 September 2013 - The chairman of ISI, Tan Sri Halim Ali had visited ISI Johor Bahru office on 3 September 2013. A short presentation on the new renovation of ISI and hi-tea was held to celebrate this joyous occasion. The chairman also made a tour of Dewan Sultan Iskandar notably those locations that will be renovated for ISI's expansion.

Tan Sri Abdul Halim Ali had earlier attended the Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) signing ceremony between ISI and Johor Land Berhad at Persada Johor.





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## ISI appoints Two Professional staff



JOHOR BAHRU, 1 July 2013 - Assoc. Prof. Dr Mohd Zamani Ahmad has been appointed as ISI's Deputy Director II starting from 1 July 2013, being seconded from the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering, UTM.

Prof. Dr. Mahbob Salim has been appointed as Visiting Professor at the Institute Sultan Iskandar also commencing 1 July 2013. He was ISI past immediate Executive Director. Prior to this he had served the consulting firm Messrs Veritas Design Group.

## ISI Hari Raya Aidilfitri Celebration



JOHOR BAHRU, 5 September 2013 - ISI had organised Hari Raya Aidilfitri celebration on 5 September 2013 at Dewan Jamuan, Dewan Sultan Iskandar, UTM Johor Bahru. Around 120 guests had attended the reception.

VIP guests attended were Pro Chancellor UTM, Tan Sri Dr Salleh Mohd. Nor, Vice Chancellor UTM, Ir. Prof. Dr. Wahid bin Omar. All deans from the whole UTM Johor Bahru also were at the celebration.

### Editorial

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