



ISKANDAR WATERFRONT

PRESS RELEASE

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Johor launches RM2.5bil plan to revitalise dirty Sg Danga into a new riverfront tourist destination.

Project designed to beautify & transform river into the “Venice of the East”

JOHOR BAHRU, Fri. (May 15, 2015): Johor will undertake one of Malaysia’s biggest river cleaning and revitalisation programmes with the complete transformation of the heavily polluted Sungai Danga (Danga River) here into a major riverfront tourist destination.

Called the “The River City @ Danga Bay”, the RM2.5 billion development was launched by Menteri Besar (Chief Minister) Datuk Seri Mohamed Khaled Nordin here today.

Riverside Terra Sdn Bhd, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Iskandar Waterfront Sdn Bhd, will spearhead this unique development.

The project is modelled after some of the world’s leading riverfront destinations such as the Cheonggyecheon river renewal programme in South Korea; San Antonio Riverfront in the USA; South Bank Parkland Rivervalley in Brisbane, Australia and Toronto Central Waterfront in Canada.

Johor’s plan under this comprehensive and integrated development is to clean, beautify, revitalise and transform Sungai Danga into new riverfront city emerging along both banks of the 6km-long river.

The development will have four primary components – The Venice (themed riverfront buildings with vibrant entertainment and shopping conveniences), The Gateway (where the new downtown will be created), The Riviera (urban living by the river), The Bund (new growth centre infused with historical and heritage elements) and The Fisherman’s Wharf (a place for festivals, parties and marine lifestyle).

“We will make Sungai Danga come alive with river cruises, boardwalks, street sculptures, lifestyle malls, food, entertainment and other water sports facilities under this development,” said Khaled Nordin at the ground-breaking ceremony.

Also present was State Executive Council Member Datuk Tee Siew Kiong, Iskandar Waterfront Holdings Sdn Bhd (IWH) executive vice chairman Tan Sri Lim Kang Hoo, senior government officers and community leaders.

Khaled Nordin said the new riverfront destination would not only be a boon for tourism but also for local youths as it would become the staging point for international-class water sports and activities.

Phase 1 of the “The River City @ Danga Bay” will cover 52-acres and cost RM2.5 billion to develop. The highlight will be two man-made islands with thematic architectural features to showcase Malaysia’s rich ethnic and cultural diversity.

“It will be the first of its kind in the country. This is where the Malays, Chinese Indians and others will be able to display their unique cultural heritage, customs, dances, traditions and works of art for the benefit of tourists,” explained Tan Sri Lim.

Also included will be hotels, serviced apartments and office suites complemented with waterfront alfresco facilities, retail outlets, riverfront promenades, special lighting and a landscaped 6km-long boardwalk along the riverbank.

“This is an iconic project designed to revitalise and transform Sungai Danga into a major tourist and holiday destination,” said Tan Sri Lim, adding that another two man-made islands will be added under Phase 2 of the development.

Sungai Danga, together with Sungai Skudai and Sungai Melayu (all within Johor Bahru), are among the most polluted rivers in the State of Johor.

Under the Ninth Malaysia Plan, the Federal Government had allocated RM300 million through Iskandar Regional Development Authority (IRDA) to tender out jobs for the cleaning and beautification of the three rivers.

Since 1999, IWH has also been actively funding works to dredge, deepen and clean-up the rivers using its own equipment and resources, which is still continuing today.

Locals now avoid Sungai Danga because it is dirty, smelly and filled with rubbish. “We will give the river a new lease of life,” said Tan Sri Lim, adding that the rhythm of life in Johor Bahru would be influenced by the ebb and flow of the new revitalised river.

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