



NO MAJOR IMPACT: Construction and property player Ireka Corp Bhd expects no major impact from price swings of raw material costs for all four of its existing projects. The company has built in a 'healthy buffer' to safeguard its margins in the event of escalating prices of raw material used in its RM1.14b construction order book, its president and CEO Lai Voon Hon (right) said at the company's AGM in Kuala Lumpur yesterday. Also present were group MD Lai Siew Wah (left) and chairman Hj Abdullah Yusof. SEE P2

'Ireka unaffected by raw materials costs swing'

CONSTRUCTION and property player Ireka Corp Bhd expects no major impact from price swings of raw material costs for all four of its existing projects.

President & CEO Lai Voon Hon said the company has built in a "healthy buffer" to safeguard its margins in the event of escalating prices of raw material used in its RM1.14 billion construction order book.

"Since most of our projects are newly secured, we have factored in the current market price. We are also actively managing our costs as most projects secured does not al-

low variation of price," he said in a media briefing after Ireka's annual general meeting in Kuala Lumpur yesterday.

All resolutions were passed at the meeting, including a proposal to declare a final dividend of 10% for the financial year ended March 31, 2008.

Ireka's portfolio of construction works includes SENI Mont' Kiara and Tiffani by i-ZEN, luxury condominium projects in Selangor, the Sandakan Harbour Square urban renewal project and integrated office and retail mall one Mont' Kiara.

These projects will last until the year 2011.

Lai also said the company has been pre-qualified for another two domestic projects. "These are mixed development projects by the private sector here in Malaysia," he added.

Ireka returned to black in the financial year 2008, posting 12-month net profit of RM157.59 million after suffering from three consecutive net losses since 2005.

"Moving forward, we will be defensive in the current turbulent economic situation and position ourselves so that we will not be affected by any swing in the financial market," Lai said.

— Jason Ng