



James Wong (centre) with other officials during the topping up ceremony of Sandakan Harbour Mall and Four Points by Sheraton hotel

# Sandakan Harbour Square achieves major progress

By JAMES LEONG

james@newsabahtimes.com.my

**SANDAKAN:** The topping up ceremony of Sandakan Harbour Mall and Four Points by Sheraton hotel, as well as the signing of the mall's anchor tenant, Parkwell Departmental Store and Supermarket on Tuesday, marked two significant milestones for award-winning urban renewal project, Sandakan Harbour Square.

Developed by ICSD Ventures Sdn Bhd (a wholly owned subsidiary of London-listed Aseana Properties Ltd) together with Sandakan Municipal Council as its joint venture partner and managed by Ireka Development Management Sdn Bhd (a subsidiary of Ireka Corporation Berhad), Sandakan Harbour Square has a gross development value of approximately RM510 million.

The integrated commercial development project obtained the much-coveted Asia Pacific Property Awards 2009 (in association with CNBC Arabiya), in the Commercial Redevelopment category.

The 5-level Harbour Mall will be the first harbour shopping mall situated in the heart of Sandakan town, offering 200,000 square feet of prime spaces for retailers, aside from being a new shopping haven for both locals and tourists in Sandakan. Above the 5-level Harbour Mall and reaching 26 storeys, sits the 300-room Four Points by Sheraton hotel tower, which will also be Sandakan's first internationally branded business hotel, set to

elevate Sandakan's hospitality and leisure standard to a new level.

The topping ceremony for Sandakan Harbour Mall and Four Points by Sheraton hotel was attended by guest of honour and Sandakan Municipal Council president Datuk James Wong, President/CEO of Ireka Development Management Sdn Bhd Lai Voon Hon, Regional Vice President for South East Asia of Starwood Asia Pacific Hotels & Resorts Chuck Abbott, Managing Director of CB Richard Ellis (Malaysia) Allan Soo as well as other guests, business associates and members of the Sandakan Municipal Council. The auspicious ceremony was held on the 26th floor of the mall and hotel tower, which are scheduled for opening at the end of the year and early 2012 respectively.

"I wish to say, that I am pleased with the progress of the Sandakan Harbour Square project. I am delighted with the socio-economic benefit that this project has brought and will continue to bring to the Sandakan town and the people of Sandakan," said Datuk James Wong. "We at Sandakan Municipal Council will continue to support investments that will bring major development or significant changes to the town. In addition to our continuous effort to revive the town's former glory, it is our aspiration to further strengthen Sandakan's position as Sabah's second biggest urban metropolis," he added.

"We have been very for-

tunate as the Sandakan Harbour Square urban renewal development has been receiving strong support from Sandakan Municipal Council as well as Sabah State Government since its inception. Together with credible partners such as CB Richard Ellis, our retail stall operator for Sandakan Harbour Mall, and the Four Points by Sheraton brand by Starwood Group, it is Ireka's aspiration to continuously enhance the value of its developments," Lai Voon Hon said.

The event also witnessed the signing of Sandakan Harbour Mall's anchor tenant, Parkwell Department Store and Supermarket, which will take up retail space of approximately 48,000 sq ft. Lai Kock Poh, managing Director of Evergreen (1979) Trading Sdn Bhd (owner of Parkwell) said, "With its modern design concept and retail mix, I am confident that Sandakan Harbour Mall will meet the retail needs of the locals and tourists in Sandakan. Indeed, Parkwell is pleased to be the anchor tenant of Sandakan Harbour Mall, in line with the Group's expansion in East Malaysia."

The Four Points by Sheraton hotel will feature 300 rooms along with three food and beverage outlets, a lounge bar and over 17,000 sq ft of flexible meeting and function space. "We are delighted to witness the topping up ceremony of Four Points by Sheraton Sandakan, which is an exciting addition to the brand's growing footprint in Malaysia," said Chuck Abbott.

"With its timeless and stylish comfort offering, Four Points by Sheraton has proved a huge hit for Starwood worldwide, because of the "halo" iconic Sheraton brand. The opening of this hotel early next year will take hospitality to another level in the city of Sandakan," added Abbott.

Some of the brands which will be the tenants at the Sandakan Harbour Mall include Levi's, Gnitel, Bata, GNC, The Body Shop, Tomei Gold & Jewellery, SOX World, SN Mutiara, SOG and Jeff Eyewear Space. The mall has allocated an area of 18,000 sq ft as the food court and a 6,000 sq ft area for the entertainment and games centre.