

RM510 mln project to rejuvenate Sandakan

SANDAKAN: The Sandakan Harbour Square (SHS) plans to rejuvenate Sandakan with the introduction of over 100 fashion, lifestyle and F&B outlets, according to Ireka Senior Vice President for Projects (East Malaysia) Chen Min Sang.

"We started this project almost ten years ago with the objective of rejuvenating this part of Sandakan. This will be the jewel of the crown where we have the Four Points, Sheraton Sandakan as well as a shopping centre," said Chen, hoping that SHS will be a gathering place for the locals of Sandakan.

The RM510 million project boasts of a three-storey Central Market Building, City Harbour Square, Commercial Shop Offices (which are already sold out), a five-level shopping mall and a multi-story car park (980 bays) and a 300-room 26-storey hotel managed by Four Points and Sheraton Sandakan.

Syntio Camilleri, general manager of the Four Points, believes the hotel, which boasts of five star facilities, will place Sandakan prominently in the tourist map.

"We have a huge network around the world and this will help attract tourists, especially foreco-tourism and meetings from all corners of the world," said Syntio.

Among the offerings by Four Points are a view of the Sulu Sea for all of the 300 rooms available, a 600-square metre ballroom, several meeting rooms, a wine cellar, cigar lounge and a fun pub located on the first floor.

"The highlight of the hotel is our signature restaurant called the eatery. What's unique about this is we have live cooking stations for sushi, pasta, noodle, grill and island serving sweet soups, a large selection and a wonderful sea view:

"It's a fabulous product. As a general manager I'm very proud to be here and to be in charge of running this hotel," he said.

Development and Property Manager of Sandakan Municipal Council (SMC), Vun Soon Chong said he was impressed with how SHS had come through, stating



From left, Thomas Lau, Vun, Lai, Camilleri and Chen inspecting the Square.

that the surrounding area of SHS itself has come a long way in terms of development.

"This (Sandakan Harbour Square) will definitely boost Sandakan economically, socially and physically and that's what the council (SMC) expects," said Vun.

He hopes the Four Points will attract more tourists and be able to hold big events such as government functions.

President and CEO of IREKA Lai Voön Hon hopes to bring more people from West Malaysia to the

shores of Sandakan.

"Sandakan is more famous among Europeans than among our own Malaysian people," he chuckled, but "it's our duty and hope to bring more people from places like KL, Penang and the rest of West Malaysia as well."

"It's a beautiful municipality. It's a nature town of Sabah and the gateway to Borneo," said Lai.

Four Points will have a soft opening at the end of May while the mall is scheduled to open around June.