

WITH the grand opening of the Four Points by Sheraton Sandakan Hotel ('FPSS') and the Harbour Mall Sandakan ('HMS'), Sabah Chief Minister, Datuk Seri Musa Aman is looking forward to see Sandakan's revival to its halcyon days as the "Little Hong Kong" of the East.

The hotel and mall form part of Sandakan Harbour Square ('SHS'), an integrated masterplan development with a GDV worth approximately RM510mil. The urban renewal project which won the Asia Pacific Property Awards 2009 (Commercial Redevelopment category) also consists of a Central Market (market and fish jetty), town square and waterfront esplanade (for community events), Swiss Inn Waterfront Hotel; as well as commercial shop offices.

Sandakan Harbour Square is developed by ICSD Ventures Sdn Bhd (a subsidiary of London-listed Aseana Properties Limited) together with joint development partner Sandakan Municipal Council; and managed by Ireka Development Management Sdn Bhd.

The hotel and mall grand opening was symbolised with plaque signing and hand print ceremonies during a gala dinner attended by Musa, Sandakan Municipal Council president Datuk James Wong; ICSD Ventures Sdn Bhd managing director Lai Voon Hon; Ireka Corporation Bhd group managing director Lai Siew Wah; as well as other distinguished guests, business associates, the media and representatives from Sandakan Municipal Council.

"Having witnessed the birth of this project in 2003, I can testify that Sandakan city centre has been transformed from a sleepy backwater to the modern, vibrant Nature's City it is now.

"The Sandakan Harbour Square scheme is a great example of a private-government joint partnership. This iconic landmark has rejuvenated Sandakan into a thriving commercial hub, complementing this famous eco-tourism destination with international-class accommodation and shopping facilities. We must not also forget the abundant employment and business opportunities Sandakan Harbour Square brings

Turning heads:

Four Points by Sheraton Sandakan offers a comfortable, relaxed stay for value-oriented business and leisure travellers.



Swinging times again

Sandakan Harbour Square marks the revival of Sandakan city

to Sandakan," said Musa.

Lai added, "From the technically-challenging sea reclamation (which added 25% land area to the CBD of Sandakan in three months) which we completed well ahead of schedule, to today's grand opening of this final phase (consisting of FPSS and HMS), we are indeed grateful for the strong support we have received from the Sabah State Government, Sandakan Municipal Council and Sabah Tourism Board.

"Undoubtedly, the success of Sandakan Harbour Square is also

fuelled by the economic potential of the Sabah Development Corridor (SDC).

"ICSD Ventures, Aseana Properties and Ireka are very proud to see our vision coming to fruition – to bring modern lifestyle, social rejuvenation and tourism boost to Sandakan city."

Standing majestically, fronting the coastal shores of Sandakan Bay, FPSS is the only internationally branded hotel in Sandakan.

Each of the hotel's 300 stylish contemporary guest rooms is filled with thoughtful touches includ-

ing the signature Four Points by Sheraton Four Comfort Bed.

FPSS is also the only hotel in the city to offer a stylish Presidential Suite – a well-appointed suite featuring a lounge area, dining facilities, separate kitchenette and study.

Housing the largest state-of-the-art function space in the city, FPSS is fast gaining popularity as the venue for business meetings, conferences, convention, banquets and wedding receptions.

On the other hand, the Harbour Mall Sandakan is known as the

city's only modern lifestyle mall to offer unparalleled shopping, dining and leisure experiences – all under one roof.

The 4.9ha Sandakan Harbour Square was completed well within the targeted 10 years in four phases.

Sandakan is a famous eco-tourism destination in South-East Asia. Unique attractions include the Sandakan Heritage Trail, Sepilok Orang Utan Sanctuary, Turtle Islands Park, Labuk Bay Proboscis Monkey Sanctuary, Sun Bear Sanctuary, Kinabatangan River, and Gomantong Caves.