

Sandakan's first international hotel opens in May

By JAMES LEONG
james@newsabah-
times.com.my

SANDAKAN: Four Points by Sheraton Sandakan, Sandakan's first internationally branded hotel, and the east coast's largest mall, the Harbour Mall Sandakan, will open its door this May.

The five-level Harbour Mall Sandakan offers 200,000 square feet of prime spaces for retailers, aside from being a new shopping haven for both locals and tourists in Sandakan.

It will also host a 10,000 square feet court and a 6,000 square feet entertainment and games centre.

Above the mall, reaching 26 storeys, sits the 300-room Four Points by Sheraton Sandakan ho-

tel tower. It will also be the town's first internationally branded hotel and set to elevate Sandakan's hospitality and leisure standard to a new level.

The Harbour Mall Sandakan car park which can accommodate nearly 1,000 vehicles will be open to the public next week and users will not be charged during this month for using the facility, Ireka Development Management Sdn Bhd Senior Vice President, Projects (East Malaysia) Chen Min Sang said after taking local media representatives on a tour of the building yesterday.

"The parking charges for using the car park will be reasonable and we will make an announcement once we have decided on it later on. For the time being we are

not imposing any parking charges this month," he added.

The Harbour Mall Sandakan and Four Points by Sheraton Sandakan hotel are the final phases of the Sandakan Harbour Square (SHS), an urban renewal project, jointly undertaken by Sandakan Municipal Council and ICSD Ventures Sdn Bhd, launched in 2003.

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 ap-

proximately RM510 million.

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

"As an urban redevelopment project, the Sandakan Harbour

Square project has three major objectives, namely, Growth (to provide a catalyst for the modernisation of Sandakan); Tourism (to enhance Sandakan as a tourist destination) and Social Rejuvenation (to reinvigorate Sandakan into a bustling commercial centre, creating employment opportunities)," Chen explained.

Chen said with strong support from the Sabah Government, es-

pecially Sandakan Municipal Council, Sandakan Harbour Square aims to achieve the three major objectives through the de-

velopment of these components:

- A new central business district of commercial shop offices to create vibrancy to the town centre

- An internationally branded business hotel and modern shopping mall to meet the needs of both the local community and tourists

- A new City Harbour Square and waterfront esplanade to revitalise the Sandakan town, with ample public space to accommodate recreational and social functions.