

Prizes up to RM30,000 for Sandakan icon design contest

SANDAKAN: Thanks to the initiative of Ireka Corporation Berhad, this east coast town will soon have its own iconic sculpture to be placed at its new public landmark, Sandakan Harbour Square.

The Sandakan Sculpture Competition 2012 gives an opportunity for Malaysians to design an iconic sculpture, which best represents Sandakan to the world. The winning idea will be "brought to life" in the form of an actual iconic sculpture to be placed at Sandakan Harbour Square.

The contest, which is jointly organised by Ireka Development Management Sdn Bhd (Development manager for Sandakan Harbour Square), ICSD Ventures Sdn Bhd (developer of Sandakan Harbour Square) and in collaboration with Sandakan Municipal Council (joint development partner for Sandakan Harbour Square), will run from 1 March to 16 April 2012.

Attractive prizes of up to RM30,000 are to be won, including hotel stays at the soon-to-be opened internationally-branded hotel, Four Points by Sheraton Sandakan. Entries ac-

companied by the required artwork and design rationale can be submitted online, by post or by hand. Further details and the entry form can be obtained at www.harbourmallsandakan.com.my

"I applaud this initiative by Ireka because the iconic sculpture will definitely enhance Sandakan's status as a Nature City and I am confident that this will eventually be a tourist attraction to Malaysians and foreigners alike," Sandakan Municipal Council president Datuk James Wong said.

Since the development began in 2004, the Sandakan Harbour Square has significantly modernised Sandakan town over the years. We are all looking forward to this final milestone - the opening of the Harbour Mall Sandakan and Four Points by Sheraton Sandakan hotel this May, Wong added.

According to President and CEO of Ireka Development Management Sdn Bhd, Lai Voon Hon, the Sandakan Sculpture Competition 2012 is about relishing appreciation and pride towards the country's famous ecotourism destination, Sandakan.

"We want the people of

Malaysia to design a signature icon that best captures Sandakan's unique essence, one that we have a sense of belonging to and can be proud of," he added.

The Little Mermaid in Copenhagen, Eros the Archer at Piccadilly Circus, London, the Charging Bull at Wall Street, New York, and The Merlion in Singapore. These are iconic sculptures of the cities they are located in and have turned into a tourist attraction and often become the city's most photographed artworks. Soon Sandakan too will have an iconic sculpture that best represent the town to the world.

Present at the press conference were Ireka Development Management Sdn Bhd Senior Vice President, Projects (East Malaysia), Chen Min Sang, ICSD Ventures Sdn Bhd Consultant for Government Liaison and Public Affairs (East Malaysia), Thomas Lau, Four Points by Sheraton Sandakan General Manager, Syn-tio Camilleri, Harbour Mall Sandakan Centre Manager, Baldev Singh, ADC Akitek SDN director, Chris Low.