



## Iskandar Malaysia: Progress updates for 2013 (Part 2)

In the previous issuance of the IM BizWatch for January 2014, we have featured the progress updates of Iskandar Malaysia for 2013 covering the investments and economic sectors.

In this issuance, we will look at the progress made in the areas of social and environment which are integral elements in the sustainable development of Iskandar Malaysia. Interspersed with our central theme of the 'Equilibrium of Horizons' is the area of urban transportation and safety and security, both of which are key enablers to our development.

### SOCIAL INCLUSION

While Iskandar Malaysia continues to attract investments both from domestic and foreign, it is very important that the benefit of economic growth can be enjoyed by all levels of community. Economic growth from the investments create more business opportunities which can be taken up by local entrepreneurs. At the same time, with economic growth, there is an urgent need to put in place intervention measures on social inclusiveness to reduce the income gap between the lower income group with those who are able to take up the new opportunities.

Based on the statistics on income class in Johor (2009), 29.7% of households in Johor has monthly income of less than RM2,000 per month.

### Kawan Iskandar Malaysia (KIM)

The Social Economic Mobility (SEM) programme themed "Kawan Iskandar Malaysia" is a set of community empowerment programmes to assist the targeted bottom 40% of low income group with household income of less than RM3,000 per month to move up the economic value chain. The KIM programmes will involve 14 Municipalities ('Mukim'), 87 villages and more than 371 housing areas within Iskandar Malaysia.

The success of this programme will be measured by the increase of household income at the end of the programme.

The main criteria of identified projects under KIM is that they must be community driven e.g. run by the community cooperatives with guidance and support from IRDA and other agencies.

To ensure sustainability, participants are required to undergo a

structured capacity building programme such as Mindset Change Programme, training in language proficiency, customer service, business planning etc.

A total of RM14 million has been allocated through the Social Project Fund in the form of micro financing through collaboration with Bank Rakyat.

Below are few of the projects under Kawan Iskandar Malaysia that had been implemented in 2013.

- ◆ Eco Tourism Village at Kg Sungai Melayu (launched in Oct 2013)
  - targeting at local fishermen at Kg Sungai Melayu
  - introduced new eco tourism activities as alternative to fishing
- ◆ Medan Selera Iskandar (Iskandar Food Court) at Gelang Patah (groundbreaking ceremony on 27 Oct 2013)
  - improving household income through small businesses
  - upgrading of facilities to target visitors (local and foreign) visiting attractions in Nusajaya
- ◆ Agro and Eco Tourism Village at Kg Kong Kong Laut (site launch on 30 Nov 2013)

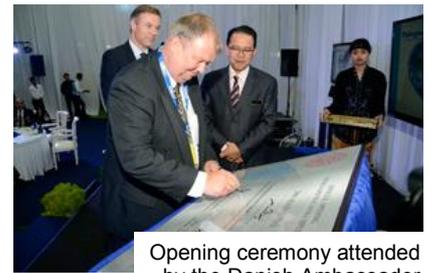
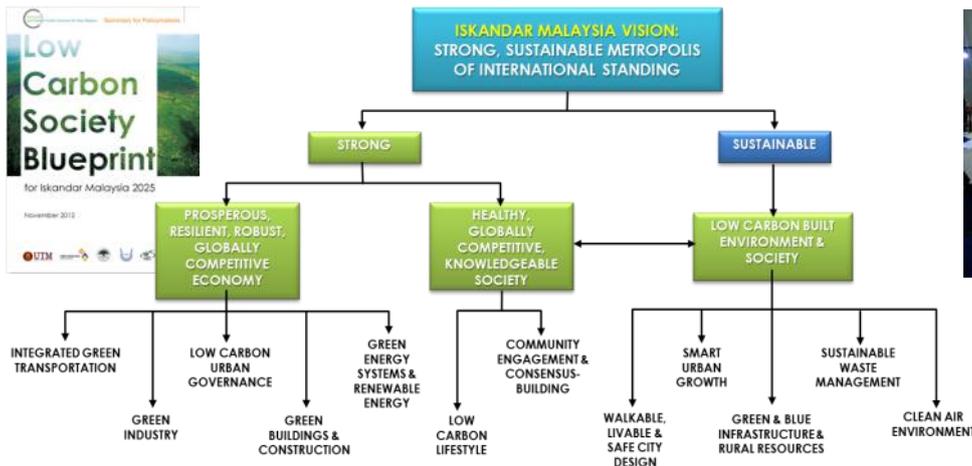
More of similar projects will be launched in 2014 in areas such as Kg Tebing Runtuh, Mukim Tanjung Kupang, Mukim Sg Tiram and many more.



Artist illustration of Medan Iskandar Malaysia



Launching of Projek Agro dan Eko Pelancongan Kg. Kong Kong Laut



Opening ceremony attended by the Danish Ambassador and the Deputy Minister of Trade and Industry

The 'green' aspect of the sustainable development of Iskandar Malaysia is our differentiating value proposition.

We first launched the Low Carbon Society (LCS) Blueprint at the United Nations Conference of Parties (COP) 18 Climate Change Summit in Doha in November 2012. In the COP 19 in Warsaw, we launched the LCS Implementation Book.

The LCS Implementation Actions are based on three main themes:

	Action Names	Themes
1	Integrated Green Transportation	GREEN ECONOMY
2	Green Industry	
3	Low Carbon Urban Governance	
4	Green Buildings & Construction	
5	Green Energy System & Renewable Energy	
6	Low Carbon Lifestyle	GREEN COMMUNITY
7	Community Engagement & Consensus Building	
8	Walkable, Safe, Livable City Design	GREEN ENVIRONMENT
9	Smart Growth	
10	Green and Blue Infrastructure & Rural Resources	
11	Sustainable Waste Management	
12	Clean Air Environment	

**Green Economy**

- Public transport system improvement including Bas Iskandar social routes, improved JB-Singapore connectivity
- Green Industry—promoting ecological and economic benefits of greening existing industries.

- Green Building and Construction—promoting and facilitating green building in new construction (including incentives). *Palsgaard from Denmark opened its USD36 million plant in Iskandar Malaysia in August 2013. The state of the art plant featured integrated energy saving functionalities.*

**Green Community**

- Low carbon lifestyle (Eco-Life Challenge for schools, engagements with developers to launch Smart Healthy City and Communities). *Low Carbon Village pilot was launched in Felda Taib Andak while Pasir Gudang 'NAFAS BARU' Clean and Healthy City- a new collaboration with Majlis Perbandaran Pasir Gudang to make Pasir Gudang area a better and cleaner place was initiated.*

**Green Environment**

- Walkable, Safe and Livable City Design (designing the safe city with CCTV, Community Police Posts, cycling paths and walkways).
- Sustainable waste management
- Clean air environment—promoting low emission vehicles, new technologies

We received strong international interest in our various initiatives especially from Japan and United Kingdom.



## Iskandar Malaysia: Progress updates for 2013

### STRATEGIC ENABLERS—TRANSPORTATION

#### Transportation updates

For 2013, IRDA had focused on how to achieve optimum road connectivity and accessibility to spur socio economic agenda.

Through efficient connectivity and accessibility, livability could be enhanced.

Realizing the importance of the above, two major achievements have been accomplished in 2013:



Improvements have been made in the 20 cross border bus services, from 16 previously. In 2013, more than 127,000 applied for the Malaysian Automated Clearance System (a simplified system to clear immigration for frequent travelers to Iskandar Malaysia), making a total of almost 372,000 applicants since 2009.

#### Bus Rapid Transit

Besides that, IRDA is also looking at ways to improve livability through an integrated public transport system by implementing Bus Rapid Transit System (BRT) which will be fully integrated to other inter and intra city transportation system including rail and water-based.

The BRT with buses running on dedicated bus lanes is expected to be implemented in 2016. Ten main BRT routes have been proposed including

- Kulai-JB
- Ulu Tiram– JB
- Nusajaya-JB
- Pasir Gudang-JB; and
- Senai-Larkin.



Illustration of Bus Rapid Transit System (BRT)

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#### Rapid Transit System (RTS)

On the RTS link between JB and Woodlands, the project is now ready to move into the next phase.

The meeting of the Joint Ministerial Committee on Iskandar Malaysia (JMCM) held in Dec 2013 reviewed the progress made by the Transportation Links Work Group and accepted the Joint Engineering Study Phase 1 report on the Singapore-Johor Bahru Rapid Transit System link.

The meeting also agreed to identified a preferred and agreed option for the RTS link by the end of 2014.



Illustration of Rapid Transit System (RTS)

#### High Speed Rail (HSR)

The High Speed Rail (HSR) between Singapore and Kuala Lumpur was first announced by the Prime Minister of Malaysia and Prime Minister of Singapore following the Joint Ministerial Committee for Iskandar Malaysia (JMCIM) held in February 2013.

In the following JMCIM meeting on transport matters held in Dec, it was agreed that a joint work group be formed to discuss and jointly recommend requirements for the proposed High Speed Rail (HSR) link between Kuala Lumpur and Singapore.

Upon completion, the work group will submit its recommendations to both Governments for the next phase of the HSR.

It has been proposed that the HSR will stop at three cities in Johor.

**KL-S'pore in just 90 minutes**

A high-speed rail link is to be built between Kuala Lumpur and Singapore that will cut travel time to just 90 minutes. Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak and his counterpart Lee Hsien Loong said the connection, expected to be completed in 2020, would be a game changer, transforming the way Malaysia and the island republic do business and interact with each other. See reports on Pages 6 and 7

**THE GREAT TRAIN PROJECTS**

**1. High-Speed Rail Link**  
From Kuala Lumpur to Singapore  
Estimated date of completion: By 2020

**2. Rapid Transit System Link**  
From Singapore to Johor Bahru  
Estimated date of completion: 2018  
Travelling time: Less than 30 minutes  
Note: The maximum speed of high-speed train is 250km/h

## Iskandar Malaysia: Progress updates for 2013 STRATEGIC ENABLERS—SAFETY AND SECURITY

### Safety and Security

In order to improve the level of safety and security in Iskandar Malaysia, community police posts have been set-up. Currently, there are 18 community police posts been built as at Nov 2013 and nine more would be built this year.

Under the community policing initiative, a police officer and his family will reside in a house that has been converted into living quarters and office in each of the housing estates in Iskandar Malaysia.

The idea is to create high visibility of police presence within the communities to deter crime.



Other than the above, the implementation of CCTV surveillance system is one of the strategies to tackle crime through effective use of modern technology.

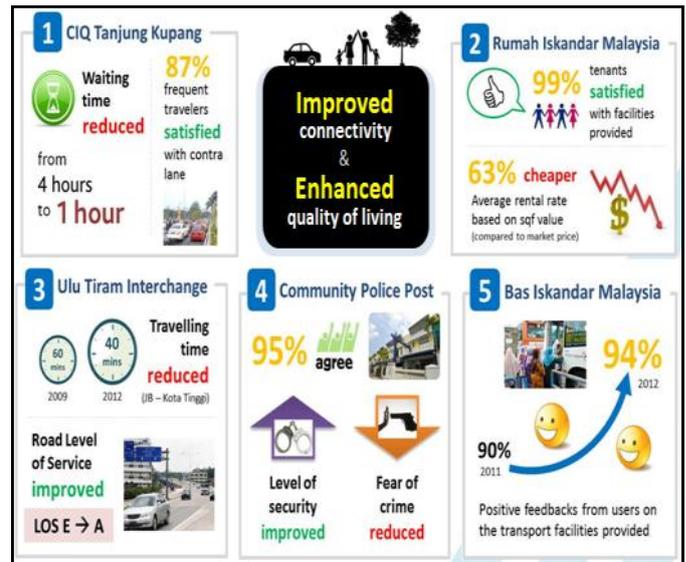
A study on CCTV installation completed in May 2011 had recommended that 1,467 CCTVs to be installed in Iskandar Malaysia. To- date, 415 CCTVs has been installed in Iskandar Malaysia.

IRDA has also been granted the approval from the Ministry of Home Affairs to establish a team of 942 auxiliary police officers for Iskandar Malaysia.

To date, 201 auxiliary police have been trained.

In summary, the completed and on-going projects inside Iskandar Malaysia has resulted to the followings:

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### Government spending on infrastructure in Iskandar Malaysia

Government's spending on the infrastructures in Iskandar Malaysia is crucial in attracting investments towards the region.

With high-class infrastructure such as high quality roads, travelling time been reduced and this has led to an improved connectivity and quality of life in the region.

It is worth to take note that, for every RM1 spent by the government has resulted to RM13 private investments coming into the region.

Besides connectivity, the government has also embarked into 70km of river and urban drainage cleaning as well as providing 3,200 units of affordable homes in Iskandar Malaysia for those who earn less than RM3,000 monthly income.

- Infrastructure to Economy (1:13)
- Improved Connectivity & Improved Quality of Life
- 195 km of Urban Road Projects
- 70 km of river & urban drainage cleaning
- 3,200 units Affordable Homes



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This issue has been supported with inputs from Social Development, Environment Divisions and key members from the Transportation and Safety & Security team of IRDA

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