

# Harbour to boost growth in Sandakan

**SANDAKAN:** A nearly-completed commercial development project worth RM500mil is expected to turn Sandakan into one of the state's commercial powerhouse.

After eight years, the Sandakan Harbour Square is about to end its construction phase and officially open its doors to the public.

"Most importantly, the Sandakan Harbour Square will

continue to be the enabler and catalyst for Sandakan's economic growth, business activities and urban development," said Lai Voon Hon, president cum CEO of Ireka Development Management Sdn Bhd, the project's development manager.

The completion of the Sandakan Harbour Mall and the Four Points by Sheraton Hotel, added Lai, would put the Sandakan Harbour Square as a major tourism hub in Sabah.

"Building the first modern shopping mall and having the first internally branded business hotel within one development is a heartfelt achievement," he said.

Speaking at the topping up ceremony for the Sandakan Harbour Mall and Four Points by Sheraton and signing ceremony of anchor tenant recently, Lai also paid tribute to the Sandakan Municipal Council (SMC) and Sabah government for their support all these years.

SMC president Datuk James Wong said they always appreciated investments that bring about major developments to Sandakan, also known as Sabah's Nature City.

"With the foresight of the developer ICSD Sdn Bhd, IREKA Development Management Sdn Bhd and together in a joint-venture with SMC, it has indeed revived the town as one of the key tourist and business destina-

tions," he said.

He added that some 4,000 working opportunities would be created with the completion of the Sandakan Education Hub and Harbour Mall.



**Significant milestone:** Topping up ceremony represented by (from left) Regional Vice President for South East Asia of Starwood Asia Pacific Hotels & Resorts Chuck Abbott, Wong, and Lai.



**Exchange of document:** (L-R) Abbott, Lai, Wong, Managing Director of Evergreen (1979) Trading Sdn Bhd Lai Kock Poh, owner of Parkwell Department Store and Supermarket, Managing Director of CB Richard Ellis (Malaysia) Allan Soo and Sabah Tourism Board of Director Datuk John Lim.