

CIDB says outlook for construction sector to stay positive

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KUALA LUMPUR: The Construction Industry Development Board (CIDB) is upbeat that the construction sector will perform at its best next year with more than RM150 billion in government projects coming on stream.

They include the RM62 billion Petronas Refinery and Petrochemical Integrated Development (Rapid), the My Rapid Transit (MRT), the RM26 billion Tun Razak Exchange, and the high-speed rail (HSR) linking Kuala Lumpur and Singapore.

The Land Public Transport Commission (SPAD) is expected to kick-start the process of calling for tenders for the HSR, which is estimated to be worth around RM25 billion to RM30 billion, by mid-2013.

"Once these projects come on board, the acquaintance of economies will change, especially in Kuala Lumpur and Pahang," said CIDB chief executive Datuk Sri Dr Judin Abdul Karim.

Judin is expecting heavy investments in Pahang with new players

entering the market, thanks to developments in the East Coast Economic Region (ECER).

ECER recently received a RM900 million investment pledge from China-based Wenzhou Foreign Trade and Economic Cooperation Bureau to set up an industrial park in Kuantan.

Japan's Isuzu is also setting up an automotive plant in Pekan, in a joint venture with DRB-HICOM Bhd, for more than RM1 billion.

"There is a lot of action in Pahang with some RM2 billion worth of new investments a year.

"We think construction players can play a bigger role in Pahang, benefiting some 140 supporting industries," Judin said.

CIDB is hosting its Regional Construction Week (RCW) at the Sultan Ahmad Shah International Convention Centre in Kuantan, from November 23 and November 24.

The event will offer an opportunity for business matching and networking between players in the construction sector.

"It is a platform for firms to know what is happening in Pahang, and who the suppliers are," said Judin.

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Datuk Sri Dr Judin Abdul Karim
CIDB chief executive officer