

Friday, April 2, 2010

## **Sime Darby Idea House set to be the first carbon-neutral residence in Southeast Asia**



**The Sime Darby Idea House. Clockwise from left: Aerial view, front view, back view**

Sime Darby signed technical collaboration agreements with some of the world's leading green technology and solutions providers for its Sime Darby Idea House project on April 1.

The Sime Darby Idea House is a carbon-neutral concept dwelling to show how sustainable housing can be developed to minimise mankind's impact on the now fragile environmental and depleting resources.



**Sime Darby Property managing director Dato' Tunku Putra Badlishah (front row, fifth from left) and the 16 other partners**

At the signing ceremony, Sime Darby Property was represented by its managing director Datuk Tunku Putra Badlishah, while its 16 partners to the signing include Cisco, Mesiniaga, Shimizu, Home Research Pte Ltd,

MEGAMAN Electronic & Lighting Sdn Bhd, Hunter Douglas (M) Sdn Bhd, **Saint-Gobain Construction Products (Malaysia) Sdn. Bhd,** Myhomepalm Integrated Sdn Bhd, Nippon-Paint (M) Sdn Bhd, MyZwood Sdn Bhd, Hewlett-Packard (M) Sdn. Bhd, SmartPools Sdn Bhd, Thinkscape Group, Jardine Engineering (Singapore) Pte Ltd, Jurusanwa Enterprise Sdn Bhd, W.Atelier Sdn Bhd and Melco Sales (M) Sdn Bhd.

“The first-of-its-kind in Southeast Asia, the Sime Darby Idea House was conceived as a test bed for new ideas in sustainable architecture, from which Sime Darby Property hope to incorporate the learning and technologies from this house into future development in our townships as part of our commitment to build sustainable communities,” said Tunku Putra.

The Sime Darby Idea House is one of the two pilot projects for Green Building Index (GBI) certification in the residential category. “GBI is very pleased to be associated with Sime Darby and we fully support its Idea House project,” said Dr Tan Loke Mun, Chairman of the LAM/PAM Green Building and Sustainable Committee.

Cisco Systems (Malaysia) Sdn Bhd managing director Anne Abraham said, “Cisco is honoured to work with Sime Darby Property to transform the way cities and communities are developed, achieving economic, social and environmental sustainability and changing the way people work, live, play and learn in Malaysia.”

“Mesiniaga is pleased to play a key role in implementing Cisco’s Smart & Connected Communities technologies for Sime Darby’s Idea House. The benefits will take the shape of enhanced security, better energy and resource management, and a variety of community services that were once the realm of science fiction,” said Mesiniaga managing director Fathil Ismail.

Some of the green building technologies that will be incorporated into the Sime Darby Idea House are 100% recyclable roof system, rainwater harvesting system, FSC (Forest Stewardship Council) certified timber products, certified energy efficient appliances, CFL (Compact Fluorescent

Lamp) and LED (Light-Emitting Diode) lighting system, environmentally-friendly light bulbs, solar panels and 100% recyclable kitchen cabinets, among others.

Taking into consideration the needs of Malaysian demographic and the expansion and contraction of the family nucleus, the Sime Darby Idea House has been designed with void spaces that can be filled to create further living or sleeping spaces as the family expands, or can be removed in the future as the children grow up and leave home. The promotion of clean renewable energies in the scheme also mitigates the reliance on artificial or mechanical means of lighting and cooling, thus saving on energy bills.

The Sime Darby Idea House is still under construction, but was already a winner in the Environmental Category in the Cityscape Awards 2009 in Dubai. It is hoped that the collaboration between the partners will forge the creation of what will be a benchmark in sustainable design and a precedent for Malaysian lifestyle living for the 21st century.

*By The Star*