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PRESS RELEASE

Launch of a Public Library sponsored by the I&P Group Sdn Berhad

KUALA LUMPUR (Nov 16, 2013): Ever since clay tablets were used in Mesopotamia in the year 3 BC, reading materials have helped promote literacy in the world. One of the largest and most significant libraries of the ancient world was the Ancient Library of Alexandria in Egypt.

It flourished and functioned as a major center of learning from its construction in the 3rd century BC and contained collections of literary works, lecture halls, meeting rooms and gardens and served as a research institution where most of the famous thinkers of the ancient world studied.

Today libraries continue to be the store houses of knowledge, giving adults and children access to books so that they can improve their knowledge, carry out research and study.

Realizing the importance of libraries, I&P Group Sdn Berhad has built a public library in Bukit Damansara as part of its corporate social responsibility programme. The library operations are being fully managed by Perpustakaan Negara Malaysia.

Built at a cost of RM6.2 million on 17,000 sq. ft. of prime land, the two-storey building contains 9,500 new books. The disabled-friendly (with parking, ramp & lift) facility is equipped with computers, free Wi-Fi, a screening room and e-book access. It also houses prayer rooms for Muslims and a cafeteria.

The chairman of the I&P Group Sdn Berhad, Tun Ahmad Sarji bin Abdul Hamid in his speech at the launch of the library today said since knowledge and the reading habit are essential for people of all ages, libraries have a special place in everyone's heart.

“This library has been in operation since March this year and I have been informed that since its opening, it has attracted over 11,000 visitors. I&P Group would like to thank Perpustakaan Negara Malaysia for agreeing to operate the library.

“It is our hope that residents of Bukit Damansara and the surrounding areas will use the library to enrich their knowledge through reading. Apart from building the library, the I&P Group has also fulfilled many corporate social responsibility programmes for the education sector, sports, environmental conservation and contributions to help the underprivileged.”

said Tun Ahmad Sarji, who has also loaned 768 books from his own collection to the library to be used for reference purposes by visitors.

His books are placed in the Tun Ahmad Sarji Collection section on the first floor of the building.

I&P Group's decision to give back to the community of Bukit Damansara is a significant one, given the company's historical connection with the area. In 1971, the company through its subsidiary Syarikat Perumahan Pegawai-Pegawai Kerajaan Sdn Bhd (SPPK) had embarked on the development of 570 acres of land in the area, starting with double-storey terrace houses in Medan Damansara.

The newly-developed precinct in which the library is located is the last to be developed by I&P in the area, and the library seals the developer's contributions to the evolution of Bukit Damansara.

Since it opened its doors, the library has become popular with residents and students from nearby colleges and universities as it is extremely conducive to reading and studying. The I&P Group hopes more people will avail of its facilities and turn it into a hub for culture and literary endeavors in Kuala Lumpur.

The number of libraries in Malaysia is estimated to be more than 12,300 including libraries classified as state /public, rural, government special libraries, private special libraries, government university, private university, colleges and school libraries.

I&P Group Sdn. Berhad is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Permodalan Nasional Berhad (PNB). It was formed in May 2009 after the successful mergers and rationalization exercise between three companies - Island & Peninsular Sdn. Bhd. , Pelangi Sdn. Bhd. and Petaling Garden Sdn. Bhd. This strengthened it into one of the few leading developers in Malaysia with vast experience in the property business.

I&P Group have been developing townships since the early years of the nation's independence with an impressive track record in completion, timeliness and quality. This has garnered appeal, loyalty and confidence in its products over the years.

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