

NEWS

# Meliá Hotels expanding to Iskandar Malaysia

**BIG BOOST:** Spanish hotel chain plans 2 luxury hotels with RM1.5b GDV, to be completed in 2020

**SHAREN KAUR**  
KUALA LUMPUR  
sharen@mediaprima.com.my

**S**PANISH hotel chain Meliá Hotels International will be coming to Iskandar Malaysia, Johor, with two luxury hotels as part of its expansion plan.

The hotels will form part of Iskandar City Project, an urban development by Indonesia's PT Podo Joyo Masyhur (PJM) and its Malaysian affiliate Rentak Tebrau Sdn Bhd.

The project, the first for PJM outside Indonesia, includes a shopping centre with office towers and a 150,000 sq m con-

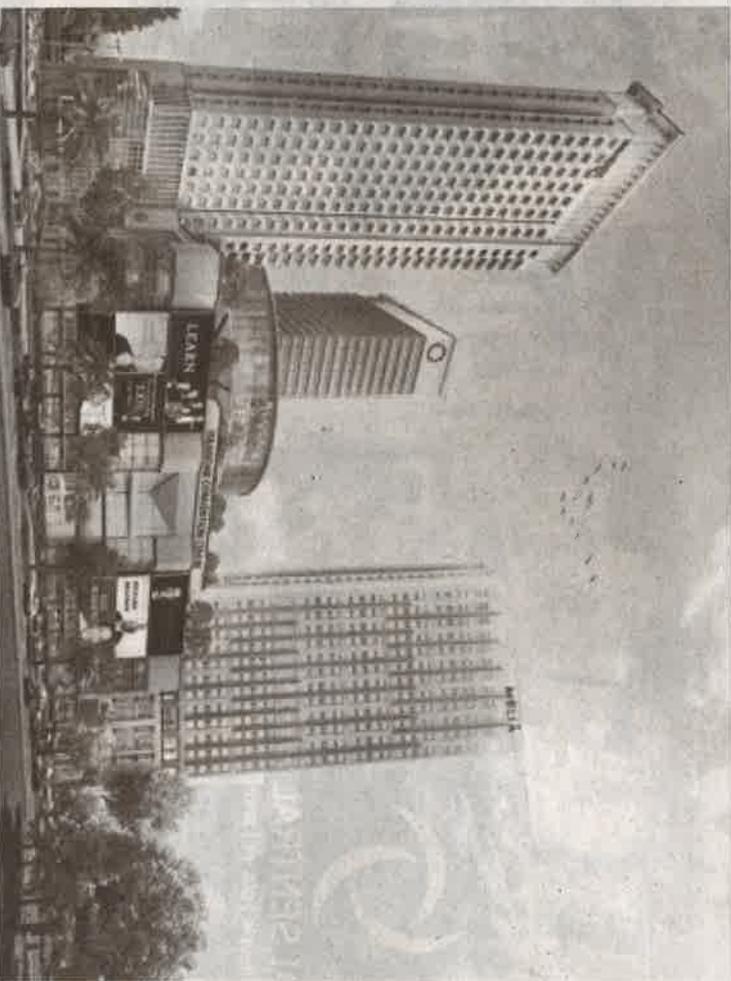
vention centre.

The estimated gross development value is RM1.5 billion and the project is expected to be completed in 2020.

Meliá Hotels International, founded in Palma de Mallorca (Spain) in 1956, now has 28 hotels in the Asia-Pacific region that are either operating assets or scheduled to be opened.

It has over 370 hotels (current portfolio and pipeline) in more than 40 countries under the brands Gran Meliá, Meliá Hotels & Resorts, Paradisus Resorts, ME by Meliá, Inside by Meliá, Tryp by Wyndham and Sol Hotels.

The hotel chain's foray into the Malaysian market began in 1990 when it opened Meliá



Indonesia's PT Podo Joyo Masyhur and Rentak Tebrau will develop the five-star 450-room Meliá Iskandar Malaysia Hotel and four-star 350-room Innside in Iskandar Johor.

Kuala Lumpur.

Vice-chairman and chief executive officer Gabriel Escarrer said Southeast Asia had enormous potential for the international hotel industry.

"The two new hotels will further strengthen our commitment to a region in which we have quadrupled our portfolio in the past few years," he said.

PJM and Rentak Tebrau signed a management agreement with Meliá Hotels International in Jakarta on Thursday.

Both PJM and Rentak Tebrau will develop the five-star 450-room Meliá Iskandar Malaysia Hotel and the four-star 350-room Innside in Iskandar Johor.

Rentak Tebrau chief executive officer Jerome Tan said the Iskandar City project would include the first five-star hotel in Nusajaya and also the largest convention centre in Johor.

"That makes us extremely positive about the project. We are confident that Iskandar Malaysia will be an excellent long-term investment opportunity for investors in the region," he said.

He said the hotels and convention centre would meet the demands of the intense economic and technological growth in the region, as well as cater to the needs of guests from Malaysia, Singapore and Indonesia.