

PM to perform earth-breaking of UCTS project – BorneoPost Online | Borneo , Malaysia, Sarawak Daily News



THERE IT IS: Toh (right) points out to Wong the facilities of UCTS on the architect's model.

SIBU: Construction of Phase 1 of the University College Technology Sarawak (UCTS) covering 30 acres is progressing well.

The project is carried out by Hock Peng Organisation (HPO) in a joint venture with Naim Engineering Sdn Bhd.

According to the managing director of HPO, Datuk Toh Chiew Hock, piling work is to date 80 per cent completed.

“We endeavour to expedite the construction work for phase one of the main campus to be completed by July next year for the first in-take of students in Sept 2013,” he told reporters at the site near to the old Sibul airport runway here yesterday.

Second Finance Minister Dato Sri Wong Soon Koh was also present at the site inspection as well as the preparation for the earth-breaking ceremony for the UCTS project today (Sept 16).

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak will perform the earth-breaking ceremony at 8.30am.

Expected to join him at the ceremony is Chief Minister Pehin Sri Abdul Taib Mahmud.

Toh said currently they have 150 to 200 workers working at the site and would employ up to 500 workers at the peak of construction.

“We are also working late into the night, weather permitting. Hopefully, we will be able to accomplish the schedule set out,” he said.

UCTS is the culmination of Sarawak’s vision and commitment in establishing a world-class institution of higher learning to spearhead the development and production of technical human resources for the Sarawak Corridor of Renewable Energy (SCORE).

It is committed to facilitating students’ access to an affordable world-class university education that nurtures creative and entrepreneurial leaders through a broad education in science and technology while combining the career benefits of an applied approach for SCORE-related research and career opportunities.

Situated in Sibu, one of the main gateways into SCORE, UCTS campus when completed will be equipped with the latest state-of-art facilities in teaching, learning and research activities necessary in the production of graduates required by the industries within SCORE.

In addition, UCTS will be complemented by its own Technology Park, which will bring about vast research and entrepreneurial opportunities through local and international industrial and education collaborations.

According to Wong, who is also the Minister of Local government and Community Development, UCTS is also envisaged to be the first university in Malaysia to be rated under the “Green Building Index” (GBI) certification.

The key design elements, he stated, are integrated photovoltaic panel which will generate 70KW including specialty low-emissive glass and insulated roofs; variable speed drive chilled with VAV system for the air-conditioning system; and rainwater harvesting and water recycling system that will reduce in potable water consumption.

Other design elements are using energy saving lifts that are registered with GBI; low Volatile Organic Compound (VOC) building products and finishes with no added urea formaldehyde; and non-chemical water treatment system for condenser or chilled water circuit.