

Signing of MOU for river project

TRANSFORMATION: The 10.7km-stretch of the Klang/Gombak river will be unrecognisable when the River of Life Project is completed

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CITY Hall has signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with global firm AECOM, which was appointed to carry out the transformation of 10.7km of the Klang/Gombak river.

Mayor Tan Sri Ahmad Fuad Ismail said the MOU was for the master-plan of the project which involved beautification costing RM1billion. Another RM3billion will be used to cleanup the river. AECOM was represented by its chief executive officer (Asia) Dickson Lo.

Fuad said the beautification works, expected to commence in the second half of the year, would start with Precinct 7 (Masjid Jamek).

"The public will be engaged on the River of Life Master Plan and design for Precinct 7, that are expected to be

finalised in March. Residents, stakeholders and professionals are invited to view and comment on these designs to ensure their feedback are incorporated before any plans are finalised. A technical engagement workshop is also being conducted to get feedback from the public and relevant agencies."

He said once the River of Life Project had been completed, the public would be able to enjoy water activities and the green area along the river, as well as benefit from economic activities in the area.

"It will attract high-value investments into the city by leveraging on its central location and the surrounding key heritage buildings such as Dataran Merdeka, Bangunan Sultan Abdul Samad, Central Market, Chinatown/Petaling Street, and, the oldest mosque in the city, Masjid Jamek."

The project starts at the first



Tan Sri Ahmad Fuad Ismail (left) and Dickson Lo exchanging documents. Looking on is Federal Territories and Urban Wellbeing secretary-general **Datuk Ahmad Phesal Talib**. Pic by Bernama

precinct in the north of KL, in Kampung Puh, and ends in Brickfields, covering 11 precincts in total.

The master plan will, among others, help to make the river an integral part of the lives of people who work and live in Kuala Lumpur and spur real estate development along the river.

AECOM was responsible for preparing a detailed plan for Precinct 1 and Precinct 7 (Jalan Sultan Abdul Samad building), which has the landmarks Dataran Merdeka

and Masjid Jamek.

It was reported that the project focuses on three main components — cleaning, river master planning and beautification, and river development. The preliminary works began last year.

The proposed sections in the project include Eco Village (Kampung Puh or Precinct 1), Heritage Quarters (Bangunan Sultan Abdul Samad or Precinct 7), KL Sentral (KL Sentral Post Office or Precinct 10) and Farmers Market (Brickfields or Precinct 11).

It is being monitored and executed by the government, through the River of Life Joint Development Committee chaired by the mayor

AECOM was announced as the consultant for the project last August.

The company has a proven track record on similar projects around the world, including Jinji Lake in Suzhou, China; Hudson River in New York, United States; Fort Bonifacio in Manila, the Philippines; and the Singapore River.