

An end to Johor Jaya's flood woes

Rep adopts China solution

JOHOR BARU: A flood mitigation project modelled after the one in China's Huang He River has been completed in Johor Jaya to address the decades-old problem.

The RM57.7mil project, near the Kampung Plentong new village here and overseen by Johor Jaya assemblyman Tan Cher Puk, took six years to complete. It involved widening and deepening the river and installing barriers.

Tan got the idea from his visit to China, taking into account the country's efforts to prevent water from the Huang He from overflowing into villages.

"The local officials explained the mechanism behind their flood mitigation project and when I returned home, we studied the river flow together with the contractor to come up with a feasible method to curb floods," he said.

The mitigation project along a 6m stretch of the river began in 2009 after major floods hit vari-

ous places in Johor, including Plentong in 2006-2007.

Tan said the project was divided into two phases and included widening the river by 6m and deepening it by 3m, installing four tidal gates and building barriers.

"This will solve more than 80% of the flood problems faced by the villagers.

"The Plentong river is a meeting point for water flowing from Permas Jaya and Ulu Tiram, which caused frequent flash floods reaching up to 2m at the village, affecting more than 260 homes," he said.

The river near Kampung Plentong flows in an S-shape, with the water washing down rubbish and debris and causing soil erosion.

Former village head Wong King Fook, 73, said the project was good news for the villagers.

"During the floods in 2007, the ground floor of our homes was flooded," he said.