

A sneak peek of the River of Life project components

THE River of Life project paints a pleasant picture; one in which Klang Valley folk can enjoy a quality urban lifestyle by reconnecting with the rivers they once shunned.

Rehabilitation aside, beautification of the adjacent areas plays a pivotal role in steering the people back to the river.

AECOM vice-president and director of development for Malaysia, Scott Dunn, said the company took the C.A.R.E approach, to highlight that the river 'Connects, Activates, Regenerates and Enlivens' us.

The project comprises five main districts encompassing 11 precincts with a staggered construction period. The districts are:

- The **Eco Village** comprising Precinct 1 at the Kampung Puah and Titiwangsa areas. There will be an Eco Valley, Eco Guiding Galley and food bazaar.

- The **Transportation Hub** situated in the Pekeliling and PWTC areas, comprising precincts 2 and 3. Among the features are a Riverbank Community, Riverside Park and transit hub that highlights Malaysian culture.

- The City Hall, Kampung Baru



Experts: Lewis (left) and Feisal sharing their views on undertaking the River of Life project.

and City Centre will be called the **New Heart**, which comprises precincts 4, 5 and 6. City folk can look forward to interesting features such as the Treetop Walk and The Canal.

- The Masjid Jamek area will be called the **Heritage Quarter** that covers Precinct 7. The Heritage Trail, Bangunan Sultan Abdul Samad and Riverfront will bring a new lease of life to the old buildings and forgot-

ten river banks.

- The **Confluence Community** comprising precincts 8 to 11 will be at the KL Sentral, Brickfields and Mid-Valley areas. A farmer's market, Union Square, Post Office redevelopment, Brickfields Boulevard and Festival Plaza are some of the features.

"We need to find space that can be opened up for beautification efforts, as people have built their

communities close to the river banks. The underground piping and utility networks pose another challenge to the team," said Dunn.

A project of such scale requires cautious and extensive collaboration among the different components.

AECOM's project and construction management executive director Feisal Noor and managing director John Lewis shared about 80 experts, both local and foreign, were involved and handling hundreds of workers.

Expertise in project and construction management is therefore required.

"A change of attitude has taken place as the country progresses from single-plot development to large-scale projects involving an integration of many components.

"One major task is to get contractors to work with our global pool of experts, but it is not impossible," said Feisal.

Lewis, from Britain, shared that a lot of planning and discipline was needed especially because the project is in the city centre.

"We have to make sure there is minimal disruption," he said.