



## **TALKING POINTS FOR HAMDAN ABDUL MAJEED**

**PRESS CONFERENCE: 9 MARCH 2021**

### **PENANG BAY INTERNATIONAL IDEAS COMPETITION WINNERS ANNOUNCEMENT**

#### **Salutations**

1. It's a pleasure to be here today to celebrate the winners who have submitted diverse and progressive ideas for Penang Bay.
2. It has been slightly over a year since YB Jagdeep, CMI and the Think City team presented the idea of Penang Bay to an audience of potential investors at the World Urban Forum 10 in Abu Dhabi.
3. The world is now markedly different, with the pandemic halting international travel and heightening our interaction with technology. Supply chain and geopolitical disruptions have also changed the global landscape.
4. Amongst the crisis is also opportunity. Penang is extremely well-positioned to tap into these by providing alternatives for investors, technology firms, manufacturers, culture-led tourism and creative industries.
5. It was on this premise that we conceived of the Penang Bay concept and launched the ideas competition. The challenge for the participants was to take into account the changing world and other challenges such a climate change, and convey a set of inspirational ideas on how Penang's core urban areas could be transformed into an integrated and resilient new economic zone.
6. As you will see today, our hopes of generating ideas that change the way we think about the challenges and opportunities has been realised. With

submissions from around the world a lot of effort and creativity has been put into the competition.

7. Today we are here to announce the winners. The finalists were selected through a rigorous process that involved a multi-agency technical committee, and a jury comprising Malaysian and international members.
8. The winners have been selected against several criteria which is worth mentioning as you will see these reflected in the finalists' submissions. The first was design quality. Second was the embodiment of the Sustainable Development Goals or SDGs. Third was the economic potential of the ideas. And Fourth the presentation quality.
9. It is our hope that these winning ideas will enable us to refine plans for the area and attract new types of investment as we prepare for a post-pandemic world.
10. Our intention is to also look at the possibility of having the area listed as an SDG Cities zone. We are in discussion with UN-Habitat about it being considered a demonstration that not only inspires the nation but other cities in the region.
11. With that, I would like to thank CM and YB Jagdeep for their leadership and support for the Penang Bay programme. We look forward to a continued collaboration in the years ahead to realise the vision and have some of the ideas presented in the competition manifest.
12. I truly believe that this project is one of the big moves that will help us realise the CM's Penang2030 vision.
13. I also commend CMI as well as MBPP and MBSP, and all the organisations and individuals involved in the creation of the Penang Bay concept, and competition. And to all the winners and competitors who submitted entries, to those who envisioned a bright, sustainable and resilient future for Penang - I congratulate you and thank you.