



PENANG BAY INTERNATIONAL IDEAS COMPETITION TALKING POINTS - YAB TUAN CHOW KON YEOW, CHIEF MINISTER, PENANG

1. YB Jagdeep Singh, Local government, housing and town and country planning committee chairman
YB Dato' Sr Haji Rozali bin Haji Mohamad, Mayor of Seberang Perai
(Representative, MBPP)
(Representative, MBSP)
(Representative GT CDC)
Mr. Hamdan Abdul Majeed, Managing Director, Think City,
Ladies & Gentlemen
2. Today we celebrate the launch for the Penang Bay International Ideas Competition. In the symbolic sense, today, we open the gateway to Penang's future.

You see, the Penang Bay International Ideas Competition is a gateway to untapped potential - to create a New Economic Zone in line with Penang2030 and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

Penang Bay is the name we have chosen for a concept involving the waterfronts, both on the island and mainland facing the Strait of Penang, north of the 1st Penang Bridge. This area has always existed as part of the landscape of our state but today it represents Opportunity. Opportunity for Penang's growth, not just in strict economical or infrastructural terms, but also for the longevity of the people, for happiness, for ease of living.

The ideas competition ensures that as we build Penang Bay together, we address some of the biggest challenges that face cities today: threats to health, climate change, poverty, damage to our natural habitat and much more. All work towards creating a new urban environment that can pave the way for future Malaysian cities.

It is an invitation to the best innovative minds from Malaysia and around the world to help find solutions to the issues that we universally face, and that the people of Penang have spoken about when we conducted our research for the Penang2030 guidelines.

3. The people of Penang have spoken about the need for affordable housing, infrastructure, better network coverage, more platforms for people to voice their concerns, greater 4P alliances (public, private, people and professional), women empowerment, gender inclusiveness, welfare for senior citizens and the disabled.

These issues combined helped form the four themes of Penang2030 - liveability, economy, people and the built-environment. As such, it is our aim that all these themes encompass the whole spectrum of Penang's development moving forward, and Penang Bay will not be excluded.

4. The Penang 2030 vision statement declares our objective to be 'A Family-Focused Green and Smart State that Inspires the Nation'.

Penang Bay offers us the opportunity to invest in the built environment to improve resilience and create a future-proof city. It offers us opportunities in creating resilience leveraging on the cultural and creative economy, as well as that of technology. We already have these industries as our foundation - it is now a matter of enhancing the synergies of these industries.

Penang Bay also offers us opportunities in urban planning to continue building on a green lifestyle, using nature to mitigate the effects of climate change, and to make new strides in the area, towards sustainable living.

One of the key tenets for Penang 2030 is to inspire and to make Penang a place that is even more enviable than it already is. That said, I believe that Penang Bay has the potential to be the envy of South East Asia and possibly beyond. And this will attract not only Penangites or Malaysians to make Penang their home, but possibly those from other countries as well.

5. While you've heard me speak at length about Penang2030 - I'd like to reiterate that the vision for Penang2030 is not for a series of projects in a blueprint that the government promises to deliver but a set of principles to guide the way we manoeuvre the future.

Penang Bay is fuel for the 2030 vision, but it has to be a shared vision that we can work towards, as a state.

We have to decide together how Penang Bay will come into fruition. What aspects of economy and industry it will take, how it will prepare itself for climate and global disasters such as Covid-19, how the people will make their livelihoods, in fact - how they will live.

The ideas competition will generate concepts that we may embrace to shape Penang Bay, but its success requires your participation. Whether you are from the civil society, academia, from the public or private sectors, - the success of Penang Bay, and Penang2030 is our collective responsibility. It is also a way for you, the people of Penang, to have a voice in its future, that it be built for the greater good of all.

6. And so, in conclusion, I invite you to join me and everyone here to celebrate forward movement in our journey towards achieving the Penang2030 vision. I give my thanks to GTCDC, MBSP, MBPP for this joint effort, and thank you to Think City as our strategic delivery partner. To the future!

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