

## PRESS RELEASE

KOTA KINABALU, Fri. (Oct 14, 2011) - More oil palm-related training opportunities will soon be offered in Lahad Datu to enhance human resource availability for the industry.

Sunrise Training & Retraining Centre Sdn Bhd, a Selangor-based training institute, aims to offer training courses related to plantations, electrical, electronic and boiler maintenance. It will also have courses in tourism and hospitality, as well as general administration.

In a Memorandum of Understanding signed here today between Sunrise, POIC Sabah Sdn Bhd and Bristeel Properties Sdn Bhd, the three parties will work together to set up a technical training centre at PortCity@ POIC in Lahad Datu.

PortCity@POIC is a project of mixed commercial/industrial properties developed by Bristeel Properties. The project, which started in 2010, occupies 23 acres of land acquired from POIC Sabah Sdn Bhd, the developer of the Lahad Datu palm oil industrial cluster (POIC Lahad Datu).

Datuk Dr Pang Teck Wai, chief executive officer of state-owned POIC Sabah, said Sunrise's plans will meet the growing needs for skilled manpower in the upstream and downstream sectors of the oil palm industry. The Malaysia Palm Oil Board has a centre called PLASMA (acronym for Malaysia Palm Oil Training Centre) in Lahad Datu providing various training courses on oil palm.

He said the introduction of new mechanization processes in oil palm plantations to replace foreign labour is expected to require the large scale training of operators.

Lahad Datu is located in the centre of Sabah's oil palm growing areas totaling more than 1.4 million hectares. POIC Lahad Datu is a government initiative that seeks to promote palm oil downstream industries for value-adding, job creation and technology transfer. The project covers about 4,000 acres, with 1,500 acres already developed. More than 30 investors have bought land in the project and their investments total over RM3 billion.

Pang welcomed Sunrise entry into POIC Lahad Datu, adding that training institutions are among essential components of a typical industrial cluster. The others include, amongst others, logistics companies, banking and research institutions.

Sunrise has a training centre in Selangor State with about 300 trainees. It also has a training centre in Beaufort and one in Tawau that will have its first intake this December.

PortCity@POIC has to-date 46 units of commercial cum industrial buildings due for completion in 2012. On the drawing board are 196 shop units and 20 warehouses to be developed over the next 2-3 years.

The MoU was signed by Datuk Pang for POIC Sabah Sdn Bhd, Mr William Chee for Britseel Properties and Mr S Chandra Segar for Sunrise.

Also present at the signing was Mr P Sailanathan, the President of FEMAC, which is the national association representing about 250 private institutions of training providers.

*Photo (From 3<sup>rd</sup> left) Mr William Chee, Datuk Pang and Mr Chandra exchanging documents at the MoU signing on Thursday.*

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