

**Technical Visit to Warisan Merdeka
(New Landmark for the Nation), Kuala Lumpur**

by Mr. Loh Wooi Chuan

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A technical visit to Warisan Merdeka foundation construction site was organized by the Geotechnical Engineering Technical Division on 14 April 2016. A group of 28 participants attended the site visit.

The participants departed from IEM Building by coach and were greeted warmly on site by Tengku Dato' Ab. Aziz Tengku Mahmud, representatives from the client PNB Merdeka Ventures Sdn Bhd. The participants were given detailed briefing of the project and current progress of the works by the project key personnel, namely Mr Peter Ramstedt from Turner International Malaysia Sdn. Bhd. Last but not least, the detailed technical presentation of design and construction of the foundation works was given by Engr. Mohd Nazri from Arup Jururunding Sdn Bhd.

The Warisan Merdeka project is undertaken by Permodalan Nasional Berhad (PNB). The launching ceremony of the project was officiated by Prime Minister of Malaysia, Dato' Sri Mohd. Najib Tun Abdul Razak on 16 March 2016.

Warisan Merdeka is a mixed-development project, which will be developed in three stages on a 19-acre land and is expected to be fully completed in year 2024.

First phase of the project comprises of a 118-storey iconic tower and a shopping mall, with a gross development value of RM5 billion. The ground works for the first phase started in 2014 and is expected to be completed in 2020.

The Prime Minister renamed the 118-storey iconic tower as Merdeka PNB118. Merdeka PNB118 will be the new landmark in Kuala Lumpur and the tallest tower in Malaysia. Standing at 630 meters, the Merdeka PNB118 will be the second tallest tower in Asia and listed as the 5th tallest in the 'Mega-Tall' category of buildings in the world.

The tower was designed by world renowned architecture firm, Fender Katsalidis Architects from Melbourne, Australia. Merdeka PNB118 hopes to secure multiple certifications through the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED), Green Building Index (GBI) and the GreenRE Platinum, as well as the MSC Malaysia Cybercentre status.

In terms of occupancy and rental, 60 floors of Merdeka PNB118 will be occupied by PNB and its Group of Companies, while the remaining 22 floors will be opened for rental by local and international companies. The Net Lettable Area of this 82-storey Office Floors is approximately 1.7 million square feet.

18 floors will be allotted for a 6-star luxury hotel with 236 rooms, and the remaining 18 floors will accommodate the 'Sky Lobby' and 'Observation Deck', as well as mechanical and electrical facility floors.

The development of Warisan Merdeka is projected to add value to PNB and its commercial property holdings in Malaysia and overseas.

Warisan Merdeka is a project undertaken at a 40 acres stadia land purchased by PNB in year 2000, within the enclave of UNESCO's World Heritage Site, namely the Stadium Merdeka and Stadium Negara.

After the project briefing, the participants were given a safety briefing and guided to visit the construction cofferdam for the foundation of the tower. The diaphragm wall and bored pile for the tower had been completed. The participants were able to see the preparation works for the construction of thick raft for the tower.

