

Move to build biohub port in Bintulu

BY ALVIN TANG

KUCHING: Bintulu Port Holdings Bhd (BPHB) is collaborating with three parties to carry out a study on the development of a biohub industrial port in Bintulu.

BPHB has entered into a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Agensi Inovasi Malaysia (Aim), Regal Lands Sdn Bhd (RLSB) and PT Pelabuhan Rotterdam Indonesia (PoR) to establish a basis of cooperation and collaboration between them and to allow the parties to study on the development of the biohub industrial port, BPHB said in a filing with Bursa Malaysia.

Aim, a statutory body under the purview of the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation, is the driving force behind Malaysia's push towards establishing an "innovation economy" and its aspirations of achieving a high-income national status.

"This collaboration stems on the work done by National Biomass Strategy Delivery unit, an initiative under the agency. AIM is

the lead agency for biomass related initiative with the intention to develop new portfolio of biomass based industrial ecosystem that will create sustainable economic and lasting social impact.

"Aim works with all local and international stakeholders to ensure investment and biomass ecosystem is localised in the country and our value chain is connected to global markets," according to the agency.

RLSB is a subsidiary of the Regal International Group Ltd, (RIG) which is one of the first Sarawak-based companies listed on the Singapore Stock Exchange.

Over the past 16 years, Rig has completed a range of property development projects in Kuching, Kota Samarahan and Bintulu as well as Nilai in Negeri Sembilan.

Rig aspires to be the bridging gateway and platform for international partners and investors to access the abundant emerging business opportunity in Malaysia, especially Sarawak.

PoR has joint ventures with

the port of Sohar in Oman and Pecem, Brazil and a regional office in Jakarta, Indonesia.

By acting on the international maritime stage, the Port of Rotterdam Authority is creating economic and social values in the countries present and for the Netherlands, the Rotterdam-Rijnmond region.

BPHB said under the MoU, PoR, RLSB and Aim will conduct opportunity analysis on both Samalaju Port and Bintulu Port as to the suitable location for the development of the biohub project with the cooperation from BPHB.

BPHB will provide the necessary information needed to compete the study and operation modelling for the Bioport and biohub areas.

On the financial effects of the MoU, BPHB said the costs involved in any of the mentioned activities will be agreed in advance by the parties on a case-by-case basis, otherwise each party shall bear its own costs incurred in relation to activities by the said party pursuant to the MoU.