

Transforming River Corridors

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The bigger picture: Ahmad Fauzi (left), Masterplan Development director James Ghosh viewing one of the masterplan proposals for the River of Life beautification project.

Transforming river corridors

10.7km stretch to be turned into tourist landmarks

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Photo by P. KARTHIKA

THE proposed River of Life project, which is part of the Greater KL Masterplan to turn Kuala Lumpur as one of the top 20 tourism cities of the world, will include transforming 11 river corridors along a 10.7km stretch of the Sungai and Gombak riverine landmarks.

Kuala Lumpur mayor Tan Sri Ahmad Fauzi said the project which involved a clean-up exercise of a 10.7km stretch of both rivers would cost RM1bil, with an additional RM1bil for beautification of 10.7km in the city.

Ahmad Fauzi said the beautification project would include 11 spots starting with new piers along the Titiwangsa Petaling, PWTC, Tasek Darby, Jalan Dang Wangi, Raja Laut, Masjid Jamek, Railway Station, Sentul, KL Sentral and Sepang.

"The first pier is in the Titiwangsa area and the plan includes constructing bridges, cycle

paths, walkways and greening the surrounding areas.

"The main objective is to link both sides of the riverfront and integrating it with river-based public transportation," Ahmad Fauzi said.

Ahmad Fauzi, who launched the two-day River of Life Seminar at the D'Mall training institute in Bandar Tun Razak yesterday, said 80ha of vacant land had been identified for development projects.

"These plots of land have been left idle and have the potential to be redeveloped to enhance the surrounding spaces along the riverfront."

"Take the Mayapai pier area as an example which comes under Project 7. It is strategic and has great potential to become a vibrant tourist spot. In fact there are even proposals to turn it into a tourist attraction with floating facilities like Malacca," Ahmad Fauzi said.

However, the mayor said the major hurdle was the clearing up 1.1Mha of the rivers and not removing Kuala Lumpur City Hall's (KLCC) lack of relocating squatters and illegal structures and

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- Tan Sri Ahmad Fauzi (left).

monitoring what they throw into the waterways.

Ahmad Fauzi urged city residents to appreciate the government's effort in revitalising and bringing back life and care for the rivers.

"The government is allocating a lot of money for this project and I am sure many people will appreciate the efforts and value it," Ahmad Fauzi said.

Five companies have been shortlisted for their proposals for the river beautification master planning competition. The judging criteria includes scope of work, design, economic viability and feasibility.

There are four international companies and two local ones. The master plans are available for the public to view and vote at www.malaysiatoday.com.my from now until July 28.

A panel of expert juries have also been appointed to assess the plans. The winning plan will be based on a combination of votes from the public (30%) and the juries (70%). The winning proposal will be announced on July 30.