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Malaysians in joint venture to develop international Islamic village in Aceh

KLANG, Wed. - A Bumiputera consortium is undertaking a RM2 billion joint-venture with a co-operative in Samarkilang, central Aceh in Indonesia, to develop 40,000ha which will include an international Islamic village, the first ever in the world.

Industrial Networks Technology International (M) Sdn Bhd (INTI) executive chairman Dr Ibrahim Dol Ghaffar said they planned to plant potatoes, oil palm, pine trees, sugar-cane, fruits, vegetables and flowers on the land.

He said there would also be supporting industries producing potato chips, palm oil, furniture and vegetable-based products, among others.

The raw or processed products will also be exported to Malaysia and other countries.

"We are confident of success in this venture as the undeveloped central Aceh region has a lot of potential," Ibrahim said, adding that they had signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Badan Usaha Milik Daerah (BUMD) on July 7 last year where they agreed on job specifications.

INTI is to provide expertise, capital and other resources to implement the projects while BUMD is to get approval from all relevant departments.

Ibrahim said another agreement was signed on Aug 9 last year, finalising the details and to kick off the projects within a month or two.

INTI's associate company, Bidara Emas, is also involved in the venture, which received the blessings of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and Indonesian President Abdurrahman Wahid during the former's visit to Jakarta last month.

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