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# PM to launch eastern corridor on Oct 29

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**KOTA BARU:** Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi will launch the East Coast Economic Region (ECER) development master plan in Kuala Terengganu and Kota Baru on Monday and in Kuantan the next day.

Abdullah will be joined by the menteri besar of Terengganu, Kelantan, Pahang and Johor at the three launch ceremonies.

The launch in Terengganu will take place from 9am at the Padang Awam Batu Burok while the ceremony in Kota Baru will be held at 3pm at the Padang Kompleks Sekolah-Sekolah Wakaf Mek Zainab. In Kuantan, the ceremony will start at 9am the next day at the Padang MPK2.

At all three launch venues, a three-day exhibition will also be held to help create and enhance public awareness on the ECER and its key projects and initiatives.

The ECER, which covers Teren-

ganu, Kelantan, Pahang and Mersing in Johor, is designed to raise incomes of nearly four million people representing 15 per cent of the country's population.

It is expected to create 560,000 new jobs and attract RM112 billion worth of investments over the next 12 years.

Petronas, the master planner for the ECER, yesterday said the development roadmap would involve 227 projects in transportation, infrastructure, tourism, education, manufacturing, the oil and gas industries, and agriculture.

It will address the development imbalance between the east and west coasts of Peninsular Malaysia, and the income disparities between urban and rural areas within the region.

The ECER also aims to generate economic growth and pave the way for better access to knowledge and innovation.