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Canada LNG project expected to kick off in Sept

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NEW DEVELOPMENT: Way cleared for Petronas-led consortium to build export terminal on Lelu Island, says minister

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THE US\$36 billion (RM137.16 billion) liquefied natural gas (LNG) project in Canada by a Malaysian-led consortium is finally expected to kick off in September after facing several roadblocks, according to British Columbia's Finance Minister Micheal de Jong.

He said the British Columbia province had passed a legislation to allow Pacific Northwest LNG, a con-

sortium led by Petroliaim Nasional Bhd (Petronas), to build an LNG export terminal on Lelu Island.

"With this new development, we expect the construction of the project to begin in fall," de Jong said after meeting Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak in Putrajaya yesterday.

He added that the project had obtained the approval from the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency but was still awaiting a certificate from the body — the final requirement before the project could take off.

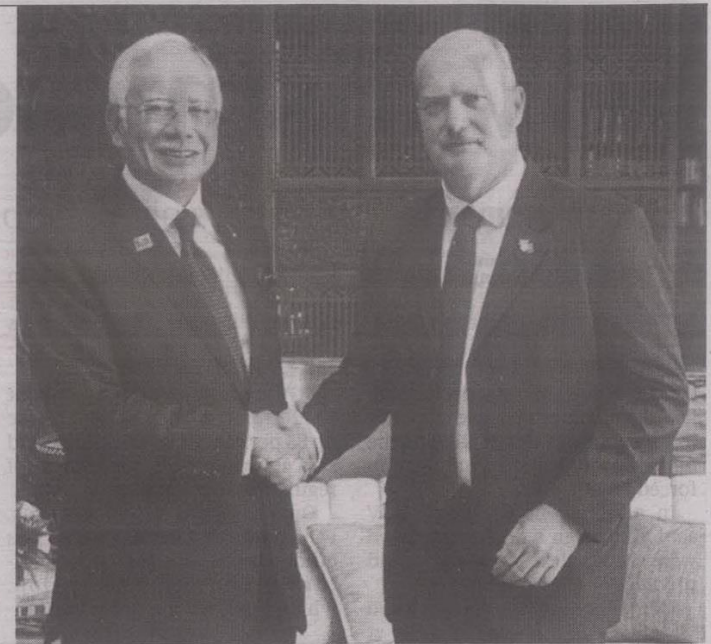
De Jong was on a working visit to Malaysia to discuss the ratification of the agreement between Petronas, its international partners and the British Columbia government.

The project's feasibility study was done in November 2012 and delayed several times due to issues relating to aboriginal community rights, environment, royalties and taxes.

It has been reported that Petronas holds a 62 per cent stake in the project while the remaining shares are held by partners Sinopec (15 per cent), Japex Montney (10 per cent), Indian Oil Corp Ltd (10 per cent) and Brunei Petroleum (three per cent).

Pacific Northwest LNG is a proposed natural gas liquefaction and export facility within the District of Port Edward on land administered by the Prince Rupert Port Authority.

The facility will liquefy and export



Prime Minister **Datuk Seri Najib Razak** with the British Columbia Finance Minister **Michael De Jong** in Putrajaya yesterday.

natural gas produced by Progress Energy Canada Ltd in northeast British Columbia.

Pacific Northwest LNG has contracted Canadian company Trans-Canada Pipeline Ltd to design, construct and operate a new natural gas pipeline that will transport British Columbia natural gas to its LNG facility.

De Jong, during the visit yester-

day, thanked Najib for his leadership and vision in positioning Malaysia to play a lead role in the international development of the emerging LNG industry in Canada's British Columbia.

"This will be Malaysian technology partnering Canadian company to access resource that we have in abundance to the rest of the world," said de Jong.