

Newspaper	NEW STRAITS TIMES
Date	3 NOVEMBER 2016

# Emulate Gu'an, urges Najib

**NEW INDUSTRY CITY:** It is billed as a model of urbanisation



BEIJING

PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak, impressed by what he saw at the Gu'an New Industry City, said yesterday he hoped Malaysia could emulate the Chinese city.

The prime minister saw first-hand how the previously rural and agriculture-based area was transformed into an innovation-driven development.

Najib is the first head of govern-

ment to visit the city, a public-private partnership project 14 years in the making, spearheaded by China Fortune Land Development Co Ltd (CFLD).

The city is billed as a model of urbanisation for people to work, live and play. Located 50km south of here, it is home to five strategic industry clusters — aerospace, biomedical, high-end equipment manufacturing, e-commerce and modern services industries.

Najib and his delegation were briefed by Jerry Zhao, president of

CFLD International, on the city's history and the progress achieved over the last 14 years.

The prime minister later tweeted a picture of the briefing, saying: "CFLD's Gu'an New Industry City showcased the future of industrial development. I hope to see (Malaysia's) development progress with such dynamism."

CFLD has, to date, invested US\$4.8 billion (RM20 billion) into the city with a population of one million.

One of the upcoming projects is the development of next-generation Amoled display technology, with total investment of US\$4.4 billion in Langfang — US\$4.2 billion for production lines, and US\$221 million for a research and development (R&D) centre. It will be fully operational by June 2018.

The company will mainly produce "hard-screen" and "flexible-screen" small- to medium-sized monitors and modules, which amount to a capacity of 70 million smartphone screens.

"The successful completion of the Langfang project will help the domestic Amoled industry to be on a par with South Korea and Japan, and enhance China's status in the global electronic information industry," CFLD said in a statement.

The project's annual output value is expected to reach US\$2.85 billion, and will create 12,000 new jobs.

Najib also visited JD.com's massive Gu'an Sorting Centre, which operates round the clock at an 18,000sq m area.

The automated sorting machines at the centre have a daily sorting capacity of 500,000 orders, with de-

livery of packages to and from Tianjin, Hebei, Shandong, Shanxi and Inner Mongolia. JD.com is China's equivalent of Amazon.com.

The final stop of the tour was Peacock Lake Park, a public space with recreational facilities and a 925,000sq ft lake designed with an advanced sewage water processing system. At the park, Najib planted a cedar tree to commemorate his visit.

After the tree-planting ceremony, the prime minister signed a plaque which read: "The majestic cedar tree is a tall large tree with its branches forming an impressive canopy. Famous for its longevity and its hardiness, it is a symbol of strength. Together, we envision a close and long friendship growing from strength to strength."

NST- 3/11/2016