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IGB consortium to build RM8.35bil Taipei Twin Towers

PETALING JAYA: A consortium led by <u>IGB Corp Bhd</u> together with Japanese and Taiwanese partners have won the bid to build the Taipei Twin Towers at a cost of between NT\$70bil and NT\$80bil (RM7.3bil and RM8.35bil), various Taiwan media reported.

They said the Taipei city government had announced late on Sunday that the multi-national consortium had beaten two other bidders for the project touted as Taiwan's largest urban development to date.

According to *Taiwan Today*, the two towers, one with 56 floors measuring 243m and the other with 76 floors at 322m, will have a combined floor space of 158,000 sq m, or 1.5 times that of the iconic Taipei 101, which was for a time the world's tallest skyscraper.

The two buildings, scheduled for completion in 2017 and 2018 respectively, will reportedly require more steel than can be supplied by any one company, potentially giving a boost to the island state's flagging steel industry.

According to *Taipei Times*, the IGB-led group is expected to break ground for the construction of the high-rises, both with four basement levels, on the site within one year.

The mixed development will consist of shopping malls, offices and hotels, the city government said, and is poised to create 23,000 job opportunities with an annual economic benefit of NT\$3bil (RM313.2mil).

When completed, the towers will serve as the main hub for the Taoyuan airport mass rapid transit line to Taipei and five other railway and mass rapid transit lines in the capital, *Taipei Times* added.

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