

IGB to offer 685 new hotel rooms in Penang

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GEROGE TOWN: New rooms, totalling 685, will be offered by IGB Corp Bhd via subsidiary Cititel Hotel Management (CHM), when it opens two new hotels on Penang island by the end of this year.

The two properties, located along Jalan Magazine, will include budget hotel Cititel Express Penang and four-star The Wembley-St Giles Premier Hotel Penang.

"We are targeting regional markets, corporate segment, leisure and the meetings, incentives, conventions and exhibition segments for the two properties," CHM managing director Datuk Eric Lim said.

CHM currently has under its stable the 451-room Cititel Penang on Jalan Penang.

Lim said the two hotels, which carry a development value of RM250 million and spread over a 0.607ha

site, will boast retail space, covered carparks and a helipad.

"With the completion of the two new hotels, CHM will be offering a total of 1,100 room keys in Penang. We do not have any immediate plans for more hotels here."

The opening of The Wembley will mark the firm's first St Giles property in Penang and the third in Malaysia, the first two being the 647-room The Gardens Hotels and Residences-St Giles Luxury Hotel and the 390-room The Boulevard-St Giles Premier Hotel, in the Klang Valley.

CHM Hotels, Lim noted, will undertake new hotel projects elsewhere in the country, one of which being the Mid Valley Southkey Megamall in Johor Bahru, via parent IGB.

"This integrated development," he said, "will feature office blocks, serviced apartments and three hotels. Its first phase is due for completion by the fourth quarter of 2016."