



Akmal Nasrullah (standing tenth from left) applauds with Yeow (ninth from right) and Firdaus (eighth from left) while posing with the award winners at the Malaysia Developer Awards 2023. — ART CHEN/The Star

Top developers take centre stage at MDA 2023

BY JOSEPH WONG

THE Malaysia Developer Awards (MDA) 2023 made a triumphant return for its second year, shining a spotlight on the achievements of renowned players in the development arena. The prestigious event, which was held at M Resort and Hotel on August 24, saw a total of 28 exceptional recipients receiving their trophies across diverse categories encompassing the Top-of-the-Chart Awards and Special Awards.

The Top-of-the-Chart Awards, categorised based on market capitalisation, showcased IOI Properties Group Bhd leading the pack in the Top 10 for Market Capitalisation of RM1bil and above. Following in their wake in ranking order were OSK Holdings Bhd, Matrix Concepts Holdings Bhd, Malaysian Resources Corporation Bhd, HCK Capital Group Bhd, Mah Sing Group Bhd, UEM Sunrise Bhd, IJM Corporation Bhd (IJM Land Bhd), Sime Darby Property Bhd and the tied pairing of IGB Bhd and Tropicana Corporation Bhd, which equally tied in the tenth position.

The novel categories introduced within the Top-of-the-Chart Awards included the Best in Quantitative for Market Capitalisation of RM1bil and above, claimed by IOI Properties Group Bhd, and the Best in Qualitative for Market Capitalisation of RM1bil and above, clinched by Sime Darby Property Bhd.

3
Rising Star winners

2
International Award recipients

2
Joint Development victors

1
Transformation champion

Distinguished names such as NCT Alliance Bhd, Paramount Corporation Bhd, Glomac Bhd, LBS Bina Group Bhd and JKG Land Bhd were honoured as the Top 5 for Market Capitalisation of below RM1bil. NCT Alliance also claimed the spotlight in the Best Quantitative category for Market Capitalisation below RM1bil while Paramount Corporation was celebrated for the Best Qualitative for Market Capitalisation below RM1bil.

Among the Special Awards, the spotlight was cast on the Rising Star Award, the Transformation Award and the International Award. An exciting new addition to this year's line-up was the Joint Development trophy. Rising to the challenge were EUPE Corporation Bhd, OCR Group Bhd, and UMW Development Sdn Bhd. These recipients encapsulate the essence of the Rising Star Award, which aims to commend emerging developers who have embarked on their industry journey, showcasing remarkable potential.

The Transformation Award, a pinnacle of recognition, was seized by i-Berhad for its groundbreaking project, i-City. The award was to honour developers who have transformed projects from rescuing abandoned projects to rejuvenating old and dilapidated buildings or converting mining, quarry, disused or derelict land into grand developments.

The limelight of the International Award fell upon the iconic Battersea Power Station in London, crafted by Battersea Power Station Malaysia Sdn Bhd, a collaboration uniting Sime Darby Property Bhd, SP Setia Bhd, and the Employees Provident Fund (EPF). IOI Properties Group Bhd also garnered the International Award for its stellar IOI Palm City venture situated in Xiamen, China.

Collaboration was the theme of the Joint Development Award, which was bestowed upon two exceptional winners. The first recipient was the collaborative effort of UDA Holdings Bhd, EcoWorld Development Group Bhd (EcoWorld), and EPF, resulting in

the magnificent Bukit Bintang City Centre. The second Joint Development Award was well-earned by Tan & Tan Developments for their exceptional work on the Bukit Bintang City Centre and Stonor 3 KLCC projects.

The judging panel, comprising experts and professionals spanning various disciplines within the development sector, ensured an impartial and fair evaluation. Chief judges, comprising Bursa Malaysia Bhd chairman Tan Sri Abdul Wahid Omar and Klang Municipal Council president Noraini Roslan, lent their esteemed insights.

Gracing the MDA 2023 was Deputy Local Government Development Minister Akmal Nasrullah Mohd Nasir who noted its significance in recognising burgeoning companies in the property domain. He commended the inclusion of new categories that accurately reflect the industry's growth trajectory.

In his speech, Star Media Group (SMG) group chief executive officer Alex Yeow said the MDA catalysed innovation, inspiring both emerging and established developers to drive progress in the realm of property and development on a global scale.

"The achievements of property developers here are the result of their dedication, vision and unwavering commitment to excellence. They possess the unique ability to envision possibilities where others see limitations," he said.

FIABCI-Malaysia president Datuk Firdaus Musa said the awards programme creates an environment that promotes healthy competition and elevates the prestige of the local property development industry.

"We hope to set new benchmarks for Malaysian developers, whether local or international standards.

"These awards are a way to honour the developers who have gone above and beyond to deliver projects that contribute to the growth and advancement of the real estate sector in the country," he said.