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JOHOR BAHRU TO BE REJUVENATED AS THINK CITY EXPANDS ITS FOOTPRINT

JOHOR BAHRU, 15 JUNE 2016 – Think City Sdn Bhd (Think City) has expanded its footprint to Johor Bahru and will be kicking things off with the launch of the first cycle of Think City Grants Programme (TCGP), here. This is in conjunction with the opening of their new office in the Johor state capital, led by its Executive Director, Hamdan Abdul Majeed.

TCGP is an initiative by the organisation to empower and support innovative and sustainable efforts by local citizens for the betterment of the city and its people.

“With the funding provided via the Grants Programme, we hope to catalyse initiatives and projects that are aimed at creating a more liveable and people-centric environment. We call on Johor Bahru citizens to take it upon themselves to introduce and implement innovative, sustainable and inclusive projects for the city,” said Mr. Hamdan Abdul Majeed, Executive Director of Think City.

“The grants are directed towards crowd-sourcing and supporting community projects that aim to make Johor Bahru more lively,” he continued.

For individuals or organisations that are interested in applying for grants, their proposed project should be able to meet two or more of the following requirements:

- project involves environments of historic significance or public facilities;
- project improves economic or social conditions of communities within Think City zones;
- project encourages intercultural participation;
- research is relating to city, culture or community;
- project can act as a positive catalyst and project is financially viable.

Think City Johor Bahru has been collaborating with Majlis Bandaraya Johor Bahru on an initial baseline study since early January this year to determine the make-up of local businesses and the needs and desires of residents.

Chief Minister of Johor, YBHg Datuk Mohamed Khaled Nordin said, “The state welcomes initiatives such as these which focus on an inclusive approach to community based urban rejuvenation. By calling on citizens to partake in the rejuvenation process, these possible grant projects from the community stand a good chance of being effective and sustainable, which I feel is very important if it is to make an impact.”

“Johor is currently in a unique position as we continue to garner interest internationally and locally. At the same time we need to remember that the heritage and cultural identity of Johor must not be compromised in the quest for development. We look forward to seeing the projects under the grants programme take shape and jointly work together with the community and authorities to

revive JB again”.

They are also working closely with the Johor Area Rehabilitation Organisation (JARO) on developing a baseline for the disabled community service sector as well as building improvement for universal access in collaboration with academics from the University of Malaya. Think City hopes these collaborations will continue to flourish.

Think City currently operates from four different cities: George Town, Butterworth, Kuala Lumpur and now, Johor Bahru. Established in 2008, George Town was Think City’s maiden foray into urban regeneration and is where its headquarters is located.

The TCGP is already in its fourth cycle for Butterworth and Kuala Lumpur. Past grant projects have ranged from historical research projects to rejuvenation of old heritage buildings and ensuring food security and sustainability within an urban setting. Think City has successfully catalysed over 200 projects in George Town, where it is now focusing on public space improvement projects with its partner the Aga Khan Trust for Culture (AKTC).

The TCGP is open for applications starting today until 31 July. For more information on how to apply for grants, visit www.thinkcity.com.my or contact the Johor Bahru Programme Manager, Daniel Lim at Daniel.lim@thinkcity.com.my or Tel: 07 220 0536.

About Think City Sdn Bhd

Think City Sdn. Bhd. is a community-based urban rejuvenation organisation that seeks to increase the wellbeing of the communities by creating more sustainable and liveable cities. It was established to spearhead community based urban regeneration in Penang. Due to its impact and success in Penang, it was given the mandate to expand into Kuala Lumpur, Butterworth and Johor Bahru.

Think City is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Khazanah Nasional Berhad. Established in 2008, Think City led a successful urban regeneration programme in George Town, Penang through a combination of small grants, events, place making and infrastructure projects.