

Work on UCTS shaping up nicely — Soon Koh



ON SCHEDULE: Wong (second left) pointing to salient features of the UCTS building plan as Toh (second right) and others look on. In the background is one of nine UCTS buildings under construction.

SIBU: The state government is optimistic that the proposed University College of Technology Sarawak (UCTS) campus in Old Airport Road here will be completed by July 2013.

Second Finance Minister Dato Sri Wong Soon Koh said work was progressing as scheduled and that the contractor, Hock Peng Organisation (HPO), held proud records of completing work within a short period of time.

For instance, it completed Sri Saujana government rest house in Pulau Li Hua here in 73 days. It took them only 52 days to build a mosque in Balingian.

“It is not a rush job. With a good contractor, UCTS can be done successfully and efficiently within a year,” he told reporters after making an inspection tour of UCTS construction site yesterday.

“Datuk Toh Chew Hock (HPO managing director) is bringing in more than 200 workers to work from 7am to 9pm daily.

“They are building all nine blocks of buildings, which are between three to four-storeys high, simultaneously,” enthused Wong.

“More workers will be brought in soon.”

Spanning 96.98 acres, UCTS is expected to welcome its pioneer batch of about 3,000 students in September next year.

UCTS, Wong said, might offer courses in 17 areas, including Built Environment, Civil Engineering and Construction, Automation and Industrial Maintenance, Machine Building and Metal Fabrication and Animation and Multimedia, to meet the needs of the Sarawak Corridor of Renewable Energy (SCORE),

A well qualified and experienced vice chancellor would be appointed by the beginning next year.

“Only then will we know exactly the types of courses to be offered.”

On the building design, he said it would be the first to be rated under ‘Green Building Index’ certification, whereby it would use integrated photovoltaic panel that would generate 70 kilowatt per day of electricity for the university campus.

“Apart from that, the university would have its own technology park.

“The university management would collaborate with German and French experts on technology to be used for the park.”

He added another distinct feature of UCTS, in which Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak performed the ground-breaking ceremony last Sept 16, would be its 500 metres long covered leeway.

“This is going to be one of the most impressive university campuses.”