

The REHDA Weekly provides brief news summaries on local and international topics related to property and national economic indicators.



MALAYSIA NEWS

ECONOMY

Bank Negara: International reserves remain at US\$95 billion

International reserves of the central bank remained unchanged at US\$95 billion (RM426.3 billion) as at the end of February. Bank Negara Malaysia said the reserves position is sufficient to finance 8.5 months of retained imports and is 1.1 times the short-term external debt...

| New Straits Times, 7 March 2017, LINK|

SC sees RM105bil to be raised from capital market in 2017

The Securities Commission (SC) expects fundraising activities through the capital market to total around RM102bil-RM105bil this year, an improvement from the RM98.5bil raised in 2016...

| The Star Online, 9 March 2017, LINK|

CONSTRUCTION, HOUSING AND POLICY

Minister Abdul Rahman denies abuse of power over condo development

Datuk Seri Abdul Rahman Dahlan (*pictured*) has denied any abuse of power in granting an extension of time for the construction of a condominium development when he was the Urban Wellbeing, Housing and Local Government Minister, Bernama reported today...

| The Edge Property, 3 March 2017, LINK|

Tight lending environment could continue until 2019

Banks are not expected to loosen their lending policy in the next three years although the country's loan approval rate in 2016 was at a historical low, said Smart Financing CEO Gary Chua. (pictured)...

| The Edge Property, 4 March 2017, LINK

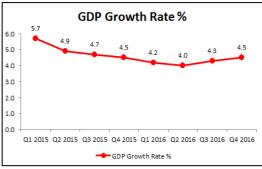
National Economic Indicators

Malaysia House Price Index (updated every quarter)



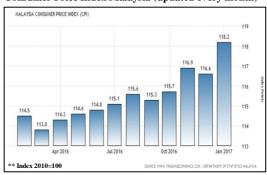
Source: National Property Information Centre (NAPIC) as of 08/12/2016

GDP Growth Rate % (updated every quarter)



Source: Department of Statistics Malaysia as of 17/2/2017

Consumer Price Index Malaysia (updated every month)



Source: tradingeconomics.com as of 24/2/2017



MALAYSIA NEWS

Najib: ECRL to boost East Coast GDP growth by 1.5%

The East Coast Rail Link (ECRL) is capable of boosting gross domestic product (GDP) growth by about 1.5% for the three states — Pahang, Kelantan and Terengganu — in the East Coast, says Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak...

| The Edge Property, 8 March 2017, LINK

Construction productivity can be boosted by 50% to 60%, says McKinsey Global Institute

The global construction industry's productivity has been relatively poor due to multiple reasons, but productivity can be improved as much as 50% to 60% ...

| The Edge Property, 8 March 2017, LINK|

CIDB's building info modelling centre to start ops in May

The Construction Industry Development Board (CIDB) expects its RM2.5 million MyBIM Centre to commence operations in May this year. CIDB chief executive Datuk Ahmad Asri Abdul Hamid said the centre plays a major role in transforming the industry, in order to push the adoption of BIM or building information modelling systems within the local construction industry...

| The Edge Property, 8 March 2017, LINK

PROPERTY MARKET ACTIVITIES

More real estate statistics needed

There is a need for more statistics in the real estate industry so that the correct information can be conveyed to both sellers and buyers, said JLL Property Services (Malaysia) Sdn Bhd country head and managing director, Y Y Lau...

| The Edge Property, 3 March 2017, LINK|

MyRumah 2017 showcase kicks off at Balai Berita

The MyRumah property showcase is back for the second year running, offering the Malaysian public a one-stop centre for real estate consultation. Twelve leading exhibitors are taking part in the three-day event, including seven property developers...

| New Straits Times, 3 March 2017, LINK|

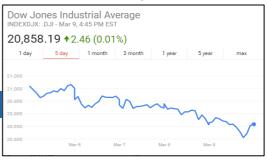
Rejection rate for housing loans is as high as 60%, says Rehda

The rejection rate for housing loans is as high as 60%, causing property sales to remain sluggish, says the Real Estate and Housing Developers' Association (Rehda). "Banks and developers have different sets of statistics. From what we have heard, the rejection rate is as high as 60%," said Rehda patron and past president Datuk Ng Seing Liong...

| The Edge Property, 8 March 2017, <u>LINK</u>|

STOCK MARKET INDICES

Dow Jones Industrial Average



Source: yahoofinance.com as of 9/3/2017 04:45 PM EST

Hang Seng Index



Source: yahoofinance.com as of 10/3/2017 9:58 AM GMT +8

Nikkei 225



Source: yahoofinance.com as of 10/3/2017 10:39 AM GMT+9

FTSE Bursa Malaysia Index



Source: yahoofinance.com as of 10/3/2017 10:00 AM GMT+8



MALAYSIA NEWS

Proposed IWH, IWC merger signals rise of largest property developer on Bursa

Iskandar Waterfront Holdings Sdn Bhd (IWH) has proposed to buy the remaining 61.7 per cent stake in IWC it does not already own. IWH, controlled by Tan Sri Lim Kang Hoo, will assume IWC's listing status on Bursa Malaysia's main board...

| New Straits Times, 8 March 2017, LINK|

UMLand J-Biotech Park to attract foreign investors to Johor Halal Park

UMLand J-Biotech Park Sdn Bhd (UJP), a joint venture between United Malayan Land Bhd (UMLand) and the Johor state government, signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with The Cosmetic & Perfumery Association of Hong Kong Ltd and Persatuan Anggun Menawan Malaysia to bring in potential investors from Hong Kong, Macau and China to Johor Halal Park (JHP) in Pasir Gudang, Johor...

| The Edge Property, 9 March 2017, LINK

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Asia's ultra-rich favour homes in UK and Sigapore, says Knight Frank

SINGAPORE is the second-most important destination in the world for Asian ultra-highnet-worth individuals (UHNWIs) when it comes to real estate investments, according to the latest edition of Knight Frank's Wealth Report 2017, released on March 1. The UK remains the top destination, followed by Singapore, Hong Kong, China and the US...

| The Edge Property, 9 March 2017, LINK

Phnom Penh office demand rising

The demand for office space in Phnom Penh is growing, with heavy interest expected in Exchange Square, a new mixed-use tower scheduled to open in the centre of the Cambodian capital early next year...

| The Bangkok Post, 10 March 2017, LINK|

Kuwait turns Silk Road into a massive causeway

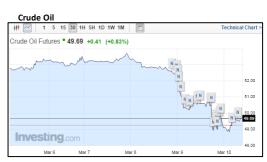
Kuwait is building one of the world's longest causeways to its remote north where it will pump billions into 'Silk City', aiming to revive the ancient Silk Road trade route. The oilrich emirate is eager to inject life into the uninhabited Subbiya region on its northern tip that has been chosen as the location for Silk City...

| The Borneo Post, 10 March 2017, LINK|

COMMODITIES PRICES



Source: investing.com as of 10/3/2017 9:59 AM GMT +8



Source: investing.com as of 10/3/2017 10:03 AM GMT +8

CURRENCY EXCHANGE

Source: investing.com as of 10/3/2017 10:05 AM GMT +8