



## **Groundbreaking Ceremony of Raffles American School marks the beginning of a new era of world-class Education in Malaysia**

**Kuala Lumpur, January 8, 2013** – Malaysia’s first state-of-the-art Raffles American School (RAS) becomes a reality at the RAS Groundbreaking Ceremony held today in EduCity, Nusajaya. The 45-acre permanent campus is designed by the New York Architectural firm of SOM (Skidmore, Owings & Merrill LLP) and its first phase comprising a world-class educational infrastructure to support Kindergarten through Grade 12, including full boarding capacity is expected to be completed by the 2014-2015 school year.

From its current student count of 15 at its temporary campus in the Anjung Neighborhood Centre in Nusajaya, Iskandar; RAS will be well equipped and positioned to accommodate more than 500 students for grades 1 through 12 upon completion of its first phase in 2014.

More than 60% of RAS’ current student strength is from neighboring Singapore, owing to its proximity and of course, the innovative course structure and environment at RAS.

“What we envisioned with EduCity 5 years ago, is today a reality. The only multi-varsity campus in the region, EduCity is a melting pot with global citizens, diverse cultures, intelligent networks and new-age learning. With RAS, we are not only contributing to the national agenda of providing quality education of international standards, but are also helping Malaysia to emerge as a preferred destination for world-class primary, secondary and higher education in the region,” added President / CEO of IIB, Datuk Syed Mohamed Syed Ibrahim.

“What draws the attention to RAS is its uniquely designed curriculum to include rigorous and rich academic as well as co-curricular programs. The aspirations of RAS in Malaysia will be to help young people reach their potential by imbedding real-life, 21<sup>st</sup> century learning into each class day. By embedding learning outcomes such as communication skills, organizational and research skills, and problem solving/thinking skills into our curriculum at every level, students are poised for success in their next school or life opportunity,” concluded the Founding Superintendent of RAS, Dr. Rob Mockrish.



**More About Raffles American School:**

The Master Plan for Raffles American School (RAS) outlines the vision for a contemporary Pre-Kindergarten-through-12th Grade academy that will be unlike any that has preceded it in the region. Set amongst the lush rolling hills of Iskandar, Malaysia, the school is envisioned as a holistic learning environment where educational facilities and athletic and performing arts space will comprise an open network that is seamlessly interwoven into the beautiful outdoor landscape.

RAS offers an American pre-K-12 curriculum program, with Advanced Placement (AP) Offerings in the high school, which will provide a viable schooling alternative to the local and expatriate communities in the region. The curriculum at RAS is jointly developed by International Schools Services, New Jersey, USA (ISS), an established global company that has advanced the quality of international education for children across the world with its curriculum development, school management, supply sourcing and recruitment. RAS prepares students for admission to top US and Western Universities and is accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges, USA (WASC).

The RAS campus will boast a 300,000 square feet of built-up space complete with sports, recreational and boarding facilities to cater for a capacity of 2,000 students. RAS will have a series of educational amenities, enhancing its students' experience. An indoor athletic complex will include a single and a double gymnasium, gymnastics and wrestling halls, several free activity rooms, and a training-and-weights room. A fully equipped performing arts center will house two venues for student productions: a state-of-the-art black box theater and an 800 seat traditional performing arts theater complete with back-of-house and fly-space facilities. At the northern head of the school, a dramatically terraced library and media center will contain a digital media lab, a stacks area, as well as a variety of "reading room" spaces that will offer students inspiring atmospheres in which to study, research and collaborate. At the southern end of the library, a 30-person planetarium will give teachers an immersive educational tool within which to expand on classroom lessons. A series of outdoor courtyards, designed to accommodate fruit and vegetable cultivation, together with a 160 sqm greenhouse, will allow food studies to take a more robust position in a student's curriculum.

The academic village and student housing will be flanked to the east and west by a collection of outdoor athletic spaces. These will include two swimming pools (an Olympic-sized 50-meter, and a smaller 25-meter), three tennis courts, a basketball court, a free-play area, a baseball field, a soccer field, and a 400-meter track containing spaces for the full spectrum of track-and-field events.

Through forward thinking planning and facilities, Raffles American School will quickly establish itself as one of the preeminent learning institutions in the region. For more information about Raffles American School, please visit [www.raffles-american-school.edu.my](http://www.raffles-american-school.edu.my)

**Artist's impression of Raffles American School**

*(For high-resolution of the images, please contact [tanpohlay@raffles-education-corporation.com](mailto:tanpohlay@raffles-education-corporation.com))*



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### **About Iskandar Investment Berhad**

Iskandar Investment Berhad (IIB) is a strategic developer of catalytic projects, working closely with the authorities, other developers and investment partners in the region to achieve Iskandar Malaysia's vision of becoming a sustainable metropolis of international standing. It is the commercial arm of the Government that has been formed to spearhead the development and transformation of Iskandar Malaysia by conceptualising and developing catalytic projects that generate significant multiplier effects. These projects act as accelerators in the development of a new connected urban ecosystem designed for the 21st century. IIB aspires to create a world-class connected liveable community in the heart of Southeast Asia that will lead the change for future generations to come.

IIB oversees the development of approximately 36 sq km (9,020 acres), or approximately two per cent, of land in Iskandar Malaysia. These land banks are strategically located in close proximity to Singapore as well as Johor's logistics hubs, namely the Senai Airport and the international ports of TanjungLangsat, PasirGudang and TanjungPelepas, to ensure accessibility to and from all parts of the world.

Aligned with Malaysia's aim to become a high-income nation, IIB drives investments across clusters in high-value service sectors to support the development of Iskandar Malaysia focusing on education, leisure and tourism, healthcare and wellness, and the creative industry.

For more information on IIB, please visit [www.iskandarinvestment.com](http://www.iskandarinvestment.com)

### **About Education@IskandarSdnBhd**

Education@IskandarSdnBhd ("EISB") is a wholly-owned company of IIB responsible for the development of EduCity, and educational projects in and within the proximity of EduCity.

EduCity is a fully integrated best-in-class education hub comprising universities and institutes of higher education, academic-industry enterprise and R&D centres, accommodation as well as recreational and sports facilities.

EduCity's primary objectives are:

- To create a best-in-class education destination, with a superior urban environment to attract academic institutions, students and visitors to work, live and study
- To provide a feeder system for the economic pillars of Iskandar Malaysia



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### **About Raffles Education Corporation Limited**

Raffles Education Corporation Limited (“RafflesEducationCorp”) is the largest private education group in Asia-Pacific. Since establishing its first college in Singapore in 1990, the Group has grown to operate 33 colleges in 30 cities across 13 countries in Asia-Pacific: Australia, Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Mongolia, New Zealand, Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka and Thailand.

More than 21,300 students enrolled in RafflesEducationCorp’s tertiary programmes benefit from a quality education that provides graduates with a well-rounded hands-on experience that is relevant to the industry.

In 2012, the Group launched the Raffles University Iskandar (RUI) and Raffles American School (RAS) in Iskandar, Malaysia. Raising the profile of the Group is RUI, a full-fledged, self-accredited university approved by the Malaysian government. As the Group’s first pre-tertiary institution offering American K-12 education, RAS marks the Group’s entry into the international school business and its expansion into a new demographic market.

The Group also owns the Oriental University City in Langfang, Hebei Province, China – a 1.3 million square metre self-contained campus. In addition to the Group’s college, OUC provides education services to six other colleges, bringing the total student population in OUC to over 28,000.

Headquartered in Singapore, RafflesEducationCorp employs close to 2,500 academic and administrative staff, and is listed on the Mainboard of the Singapore Exchange. For more information on the Group, please visit its website at [www.raffles-education-corporation.com](http://www.raffles-education-corporation.com)

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