

# Malaysian Deputy PM visits Queensland's ideal city – 20.11.12

One of Malaysia's most senior political figures, Deputy Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin, has visited Greater Springfield in south-east Queensland to study the world-class city and its model education system.

The visit was organised by the High Commission of Malaysia and hosted by Springfield Land Corporation Chairman and Founder Maha Sinnathamby, who was born in Malaysia.

"It is a privilege to have someone of Tan Sri Muhyiddin's high standing visit our master-planned city on its 20th Anniversary," Mr Sinnathamby said.

"The Deputy Prime Minister is also Malaysia's Minister for Education and this is a great opportunity to demonstrate the innovation and growth that makes Springfield's Education City a successful example for communities worldwide.

"Greater Springfield has one of the highest student populations in the country with more than 10,500 people in formal learning from childcare to University."

Tan Sri Muhyiddin was given a full tour of the \$23 billion project and was shown how education has played a pivotal role in changing the community's aspirations.

Mr Sinnathamby said education was a key pillar in Greater Springfield's development. Mr Sinnathamby was impressed by the Deputy's Prime Minister's strong and innovative vision for education in Malaysia and has offered to assist the Deputy Prime Minister with their long term planning in education and other major developments in Malaysia.

"We have dedicated 18 hectares to a fully integrated educational experience geared toward preparing students for a career anywhere around the world," he said.

"Education City is home to numerous education providers including the University of Southern Queensland, Bremer Institute of TAFE, Union Institute of Language and Australian City College.

"There are eight senior colleges and primary schools and ten child-care centres and plans for more next year."

Greater Springfield's 23,000 plus population is forecast to quadruple to 105,000 by 2030 including some 30,000 workers.

"I hope Tan Sri Muhyiddin will share the principles for our success to benefit his community," Mr Sinnathamby said.

Over the past 20 years, Greater Springfield has made a remarkable transformation from 2860 hectares of bush and forestry to become the bustling centre of the third fastest growing region in the nation.

Milestones include winning the International Real Estate Federation's Award for World's Best Master Planned Community in 2010, \$1.2 billion Darra to Springfield rail project, \$220 million Tier3+ Polaris Data Centre, \$72 million Centenary Highway to Springfield, \$60 million Springfield Tower, \$30 million Robelle Domain Parkland and much more.