Naim Engineering allocates RM1mil to its collaboration with UPM in IBS R&D

KUCHING: Naim Engineering Sdn Bhd (NESB) and Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM) will commercialise an industrialised building system (IBS) which is being researched and developed.

The two parties are expected to enter into an agreement to commercialise their joint invention or might enter into a licensing agreement with a third party later.

NESB, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Naim Holdings Bhd (Naim) whose principal activity is civil engineering and building contractor, and UPM signed a patent joint ownership agreement last Thursday to undertake research and development (R&D) of the proposed IBS.

NESB and UPM will be joint 50:50 owners of the invention but the former would foot the cost of the patent expenses through the provision of RM1mil in endowment.

The prospects involved in undertaking the joint research in IBS would be an extension of the Naim Group’s construction activities to develop a suitable IBS that integrates with the group’s construction methodology and processes to minimise wastages, cost savings and quality improvement through construction standardisation,” according to Naim, Sarawak’s top property developer.

Naim corporate services and human resource senior director Ricky Kho said the R&D and patenting was expected to take three years.

The company said the IBS to be developed would suit its needs for the construction of affordable housing and solve issues associated with foreign labour, quality and productivity.

“NESB shall have the right under the patent to make and/or have made for others, use, sell, offer for sale, import, export or otherwise distribute products or practice processes covered by one or more valid enforceable claims of the patent with the consent of UPM,” it added.

The two parties had in June, last year signed a memorandum of understanding to undertake the R&D on IBS.

Naim director Datuk Abang Abdullah Abang Mohamad Alli is also a lecturer at UPM’s Faculty of Engineering.