

# Double track ready by 2014

## Ong: Ipoh-Padang Besar project 20% completed

**TAIPING:** The Electrified Double Track Project from Ipoh to Padang Besar will be completed by 2014.

Transport Minister Datuk Seri Ong Tee Keat said the project was now 20% completed.

"The project is an effort made by the ministry to add value to our railway system," he said.

Ong told reporters this after lunching the detonation of the 300m Larut Tunnel at Air Kuning near here yesterday. He said the project would create more job opportunities for the people.

Asked if the project was on schedule, Ong said it was progressing well although the project faced a few problems such as relocation of squatters from the construction site.

Ong also said the first service using the electric train was set to begin in November.

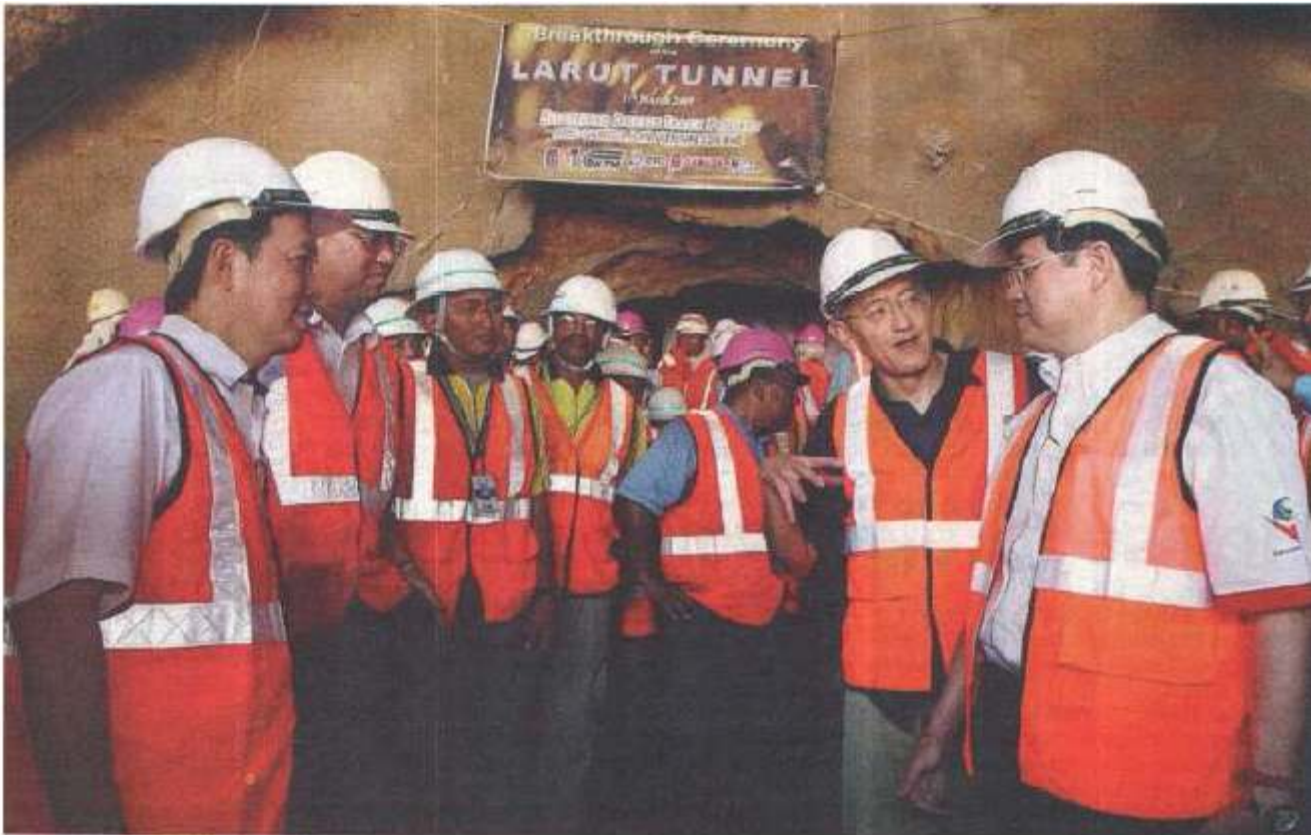
"Travelling time from Ipoh to Kuala Lumpur and vice versa will take two hours 15 minutes including the stopovers," he added.

Earlier in his speech, Ong said the project would create an additional 6,000 jobs, in addition to the current 7,000 people being employed under the project.

"More than RM10bil downstream work will also be created," he said.

The RM12.5bil infrastructure project involves the construction of two new electrified railway tracks across Perak, Penang, Kedah and Perlis.

Construction of the project began in early last year.



**Site launch:** Ong (right) being briefed by Gamuda Berhad managing director Datuk Lin Yun Ling (second right) at the Larut Tunnel in Taiping yesterday.