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Iskandar solar power project in the works

Proposed plans to involve collective effort, says Irda adviser

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JOHOR BARU: The Iskandar Regional Development Authority (Irda) has put up a proposal to start a community-based solar power project in the economic growth corridor this year.

The newly appointed Irda adviser Tan Sri Shahrir Abdul Samad said the proposal has been given to the Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak in December last year.

Shahrir's appointment was made by Najib at the opening of Johor Baru Umno headquarters at Taman Putera here on Sunday.

He said the Energy, Green Technology and Water Ministry would study the project's viability before forwarding the proposal to the Cabinet for approval and financial allocation.

The project is solely for community-based organisations where they could sell the solar power to Tenaga

Nasional to generate revenue for them," Shahrir said in an interview.

Shahrir, who is also Johor Baru MP, said the project would take off in Johor Baru as there were many buildings where solar panels could be installed on the rooftop.

"We should fully utilise the rooftop of buildings instead of leaving them bare. The project would be viable as we have sunshine all year round, and the method is environmentally friendly," he said.

Shahrir said as an adviser, his main focus would be more on engaging with the local communities and Johoreans at large to ensure they also benefited from the progress and development that was taking place in Iskandar.

On the issue of large tracts of lands being sold to foreign property developers especially from China, he said most of the land belonged to private companies or individual land owners.