

participation of heads of Malaysia's top property development firms, is supported by Panasonic.

Prior to the briefing, Zuraida had a meeting with Japan's Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism Parliamentary Vice-Minister Masamune Wada. They exchanged notes on their respective countries' public housing system.

Learning about the Japanese public housing scheme has also inspired Zuraida to think about ways to improve Malaysian public housing going forward.

The public housing scheme in Japan for instance, categorises low income earners who require housing assistance into two sub-categories based on income levels - the B17-to-B40 group and the below B17 group. The residents are charged a set percentage of their income as per their respective income groups, as rental of a public housing unit.

"For example, the rent-to-own schemes that we have in Malaysia are trying to serve all [income] levels of Malaysians, especially the B40 group which consists of various earners at different income levels.

"This gives me an idea to break the B40 grouping down to the B20 or B10 so that it would be more effective and targeted in solving the homeownership difficulties faced by the lower income group," she said.

She added that it is still not too late for Malaysia to adopt some of the measures that other countries have been implementing for a long time.

"With some improvising and fine tuning, we will be able to solve the issues plaguing the local housing market," she said. — *EdgeProp.my*