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Village-Books

"BOOK VILLAGE": A NEW ATTRACTION IN LANGKAWI

LANGKAWI, Nov 29 (Bernama) -- The Langkawi Book Village is yet another tourist attraction on the resort island of Langkawi offering a wider range of books to visitors.

About one million books will be on display at the village, the first of its kind in Southeast Asia.

The village a brainchild of Kedah Menteri Besar Tan Sri Sanusi Jonid will be officially opened on Dec 3 during the International Langkawi Maritime and Aerospace Exhibition 1997 (LIMA '97) from Dec 2 to 7, by Prime Minister Datuk Sri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

Three founders of similar book villages in Europe will be the village guests of honour at the opening. They are Richard Booth, Noel Anselot dan Henk Ruessink.

The book village is the third in Asia after Japan which has book villages in Miyagawa and Kembuchi. The Langkawi Book Village, one of 12 book villages in the world is sited in Lubuk Semilang, Ulu Melaka where the natural vegetation and the surrounding areas have been kept in their natural state.

The buildings for the book stores are modelled on Malay houses.

Book Village chairman Abdul Rahman Ariffin said the books on display and for sale were supplied by Dewan Bahasa dan Pustaka (DBP), Syarikat Darul Fikir, Popular Book Store Alor Setar, Union Book Store Alor Setar, Hizbi Book Store Kuala Lumpur, ILHAZ Book Store Kuala Lumpur, Langkawi Accommodation for Visiting Academicians (LAVA) and the Asia-Kyushu Gallery.

Meanwhile Book Village director Haji Hashim Ismail said the book companies had agreed to supply 100,000 books each for display in the village.

He expected about two million local and foreign visitors to come to the village every year.

A book bazaar with 20 book stores taking part and a story telling competition will be held in the village in conjunction with the opening.

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