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Horse Gallery among Palace's top attractions

DELEGATES to the G-15 summit will find the Palace of the Golden Horses, Malaysia's first theme hotel, more than just a place to stay.

Besides rooms which are equipped with at least a two-line telephone system, the hotel, which will host the G-15 delegates and the informal meeting of Asean heads of government, will have a Horse Gallery.

The gallery, which is a sure hit among horse lovers, will house all information on the animal. Stories such as that on horses and war, horses and sports and horses and humans will be displayed.

"We plan to approach prominent people in Malaysia, including Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, to share with us their stories and collection on horses that can be displayed in the gallery," said Country Heights Holdings Bhd group managing director Datuk Lee Kim Yew.

Inspired by the theme hotel in Disneyworld in Orlando, USA, Lee said he chose horses as the theme when he saw the Selangor Turf Club which is just next door.

"The first syllable of the word Malaysia - 'Ma' in Chinese means a horse. Our Prime Minister's name (Mahathir), starts with 'Ma' as well, and he loves horses too," Lee explained.

A horse is a universal symbol accepted by people of all religions and all races, he added.

An attraction of the hotel, said Lee, will be a seven-metre sculpture of a fish jumping out of a lake, changing into a horse, which will be a depiction of Country Heights' own legend.

Another attraction will be 89 domes of various sizes.

Pictures and sculptures of horses will be everywhere. Visitors will be greeted by a group of horses at the entrance. A peek of the showroom showed picture of horses even on the water container.

The Palace of the Golden Horses will be hosting the G-15 summit in November.

It has also received verbal confirmation on hosting the Asian heads of government meeting the following month, said Lee. "If we do a great job for that, then probably we will be hosting the Apec summit as well," he added.

Lee said they are holding discussions with the Government to ensure that they will be able to meet the requirements for hosting the summit.

"Our 2,000-square-metre conference centre has 14 rooms, a dedicated conference centre, with state-of-art of audio visual equipment," he said.

Besides conference facilities, Lee said, out of the 485 rooms in Palace of the Golden Horses, 82 will be suites, to be known as Ministers Suites, Heads of State Suites and Host Nations Suites.

Room rates for the hotel, which is scheduled to be completed in July, start from RM545.

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