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NEW ZEALAND TO HOLD ASIA FESTIVAL

KUALA LUMPUR, March 5 (Bernama) -- New Zealand's biggest ever Asian festival will be held over nine days beginning March 15 in its various cities, its Deputy High Commissioner here David Taylor said today.

He said the festival would be hosted by Asia 2000 Foundation of New Zealand.

The festival will feature exhibitions, street fairs, musical performances and presentations about different aspects of lives and cultures from various Asian countries including Malaysia.

Malaysia will be staging "Eyes of Asean" photographic exhibition in Auckland which will be jointly coordinated with Asia 2000 by Marina Mahathir.

Two ceremonial "Dragon" collars will be loaned to Robert McDougall Art Gallery in Christchurch by Sim Tan director of Nusantara Arts, a Malaysian company which curates and organises exhibitions of traditional Southeast Asian textiles for "The Phoenix and Dragon" exhibition.

Agriculture Minister Datuk Amar Dr Sulaiman Daud, who is also Asia 2000 honorary adviser, would attend the festival.

Taylor said the festival aimed to celebrate Asian cultures and bring New Zealanders and Asian people closer together.

"All over the country, New Zealanders will be celebrating and experiencing the cultures of Asia," he said at a press conference here. --
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