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Apec-Satay

CYBERJAYA, Nov 12 (Bernama) -- "Satay Kajang", a traditional Malaysian delicacy, is set to get its most powerful boost yet.

Come Nov 18, some of the world's most influential leaders will get to sample the dish at a resort in Cyberjaya, Malaysia's intelligent futuristic city.

Satay has been chosen as an appetizer for the APEC leaders during their one-day retreat at Cyberview Lodge, set amidst lush tropical greenery.

The Lodge, billing itself as a place "Where High Tech and Paradise Meet", is about 40 minutes drive from Kuala Lumpur and located in the heart of the Multimedia Super Corridor.

Malaysia's Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad will play host to leaders of 20 other Apec economies.

They include US President Bill Clinton and Japanese Prime Minister Keizo Obuchi.

Other culinary delights include "soto ayam", an exotic Malaysian chicken soup, and fried fragrant rice served in "kampung style".

The setting for the lunch itself would reflect Malaysia's multicultural background.

The cutlery and China wares are made locally on order for the occasion while decoration for the dining table includes replicas of traditional musical instruments.

Cyberview Lodge's executive chef Bryan Cheong said preparations for the lunch started as early as August.

During the retreat on the second day of their meeting, the leaders would continue with their talks in an informal atmosphere.

Dr Mahathir would be seated between his Canadian and New Zealand counterparts, Jean Chretien and Jenny Shipley, respectively. Canada hosted the summit last year while New Zealand will stage the next meeting.

Cyberview Lodge's General Manager Marleia Marsden said 145 hotel staff will be deployed to handle the guests' requirements.

The staff were honoured with the announcement in February that the lodge had been chosen as the venue for retreat.

"We are extremely excited.....Malaysia Boleh," she said in an interview with Bernama.

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