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Cyberview Lodge staff happy retreat proceeded smoothly

CYBERJAYA, Thurs. - As leaders of the Asia-Pacific Economic Co-operation countries concluded their meeting at the Cyberview Lodge yesterday, staff of this scenic yet secluded resort greeted the end of their most important task ever with a mixture of relief and pride.

After meticulous preparations which started nine months ago, the resort's staff, from the bell-boy to the manager, summed up the leaders' one-day retreat as having proceeded as smoothly as planned.

"Everything was perfect and the leaders' retreat went without a single glitch," said general manager Maleia Marsden.

She said the Apec meeting was a landmark event for the resort and the management planned to name the garden where Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad read the meeting's declaration the "Apec Garden".

"We will build plaques bearing each leader's name at the spot where they stood when the declaration was read out."

Banquet and beverages captain Arizal Azmi, 23, said the last few days leading up to the leaders' retreat were hectic but the thrill of being given the chance to serve the world leaders was worth it all.

His colleague, Sam Ramasamy, 28, who served New Zealand Prime Minister Jenny Shipley and her counterpart from Australia, John Howard, during the luncheon yesterday, said none of the leaders had any peculiar requests.

"They did not order anything special except maybe the request from Shipley to change her satay gravy to tomato ketchup."

Bell-boy Haidee Hassan said he gained a lot of experience from the leaders' visit and did not mind the extra hours spent rehearsing his part during the event.

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