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Ibrahim's arts museum in Langkawi all set to open

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KUALA LUMPUR, Wed. - The Ibrahim Hussein arts museum in Langkawi is ready to open its doors to visitors, especially leaders coming for the Asia Pacific Economic Co-operation summit this week.

Artist Datuk Ibrahim Hussein, who has spent 11 years doing shows all over the world to raise money to make the museum a reality, said the museum had been in place since Monday.

He said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, who visited the site three months ago, had asked if the museum could be completed in time for the summit.

"Now that it is ready, I am only awaiting the Prime Minister's confirmation on whether he will include a visit to the museum in the summit programme," Ibrahim told the New Straits Times after the launch of his book, *Once*, here yesterday. It contains photographs of his works.

He said the museum was the only one of its kind in the world and would be a boon for art lovers.

"First of all, it is the only museum dedicated to an artist who is still alive.

Secondly, the museum is not for my works or paintings and sculptors only. In future, visitors can expect even those like singer and songwriter Quincy Jones to put up a show with accompanying jam sessions," he said.

A copy of *Once* was auctioned for RM3,000 after the launch. Another 200 were offered at RM1,000 each.

The proceeds will go towards the museum and the Ibrahim Hussein Museum and Cultural Foundation.

Ibrahim said the book was called *Once* because in Spanish it means eleven - the number of years he had spent to make the museum a reality.

At the launch, Land and General Bhd chairman Tan Sri Wan Azmi Wan Hamzah, who is also on the foundation's board of trustees, said the construction of the museum went through a bit of difficulty due to the economic slowdown.

Also at the launch was the Raja Muda of Selangor Tengku Idris Shah, who Ibrahim described as a friend and an art lover.

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