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MORE TOURISTS PICK UP BASIC MALAY AT BOOK VILLAGE

LANGKAWI, May 1 (Bernama) -- Malaysia's Book Village here has emerged as a centre for foreign tourists to learn Bahasa Melayu, its director Hashim Ismail said today.

He observed that tourists from Japan and Taiwan, who visited the village, were especially keen about learning the language and had bought basic books for it like dictionaries.

Others from European countries, like England and Finland, patronising the village were similarly keen, he said describing the trend as a good sign of the village fast gaining popularity among visitors to Malaysia.

Since the book village had established rapport with the world book village network, it was now easy for news of the Malaysian book village to be included in foreign book village bulletins, he said.

A brainchild of Kedah Menteri Besar Tan Sri Sanusi Junid, the book village, now a major tourist attraction here, maintained a typical Malay village setting against a backdrop of the Lubuk Sembilang recreational forests.

Being the first of such a project in Southeast Asia, it was officially opened by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad last Dec 3.

-- BERNAMA
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