

18/12/1998

Paya Indah sanctuary set to open in April

PETALING JAYA, Thurs. - Paya Indah, Malaysia's premier wetland sanctuary in Kuala Langat, will be opened to the public in April, Malaysian Wetlands Foundation (MWF) site manager Ganeson Alwar said tonight.

He said an information centre with ticketing and visitor orientation facilities and an exhibition floor would be ready by April.

"In addition, there will be an administration building and other basic infrastructure such as a viewing deck, bird hides, boardwalks, information huts, horse cart stops, jetties for boats and canoes and major road system for bicycles and horses."

Ganeson said this during a talk entitled Paya Indah: Malaysia's Premier Wetlands Sanctuary at the Kuala Lumpur Golf and Country Club.

Organised by Soroptimist International of Petaling Jaya, the talk was to highlight the effects of human encroachment on the ecologically-sensitive wetlands area and conservation and restoration efforts.

Ganeson said conservation efforts undertaken by MWF had been fruitful with the number of re-planted trees soaring to over 4,000.

"The on-going tree planting project at the sanctuary has been successful and we are confident of meeting our target of 4,500 trees by the end of this year."

The sanctuary is home to over 130 species of birds, 40 species of fishes, 25 species of mammals and reptiles, 220 species of aquatic and terrestrial plants and rare herb species.

A 3,200-hectare site in the Kuala Langat district in Selangor was identified following the endorsement of plans to develop a wetland sanctuary of international standard by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad last year.

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