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Spouses go shopping, listen to music

THE spouses of Apec Economic leaders visited the Petronas Twin Towers yesterday for an afternoon of music, fashion and shopping.

The First Ladies were Allison Janette Howard of Australia, Aline Chretien of Canada, Marta Larraechea de Frei of Chile, Betty Chiu Hung Ping of Hong Kong, China, Chizuko Obuchi of Japan, Lee Hee-Ho of Korea, Nilda Patricia Velasco de Zedillo of Mexico, Luisa P. Ejercito Estrada of the Philippines, Tan Choo Leng of Singapore and Chiang Chen Mei Fuey of Chinese Taipei.

They were hosted by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's wife, Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali.

The programme kicked off at the Dewan Philharmonic with a performance of the "Young Musicians in Concert," presented by 55 musicians and singers from the Yamaha Music School and the Yamaha Academy of Arts and Music.

Some of the performers were as young as seven, but they performed with a maturity that belied their age.

Among the pieces that were performed were "Lotus Pond," composed by 14-year-old Soo Hoo Yew Weng when he was 12, "Odyssey", composed by 14-year-old Lim Jeng Chyuan when he was also 12, and "Dunia Indahku" (My Beautiful World), composed by Rachel Suit Pooi Ann when she was just 11.

A group of students from the same school and academy had also put on a show during the Commonwealth Heads of Government in Kuala Lumpur in 1989.

The ladies then adjourned for lunch and a fashion show at the Malaysian Petroleum Club on the 42nd floor of Tower Two.

To wrap up their programme for the day, the First Ladies then visited a bazaar of made-in-Malaysia goods at the club's foyer before they returned to their respective hotels in the city.

Today the First Ladies are scheduled to visit projects associated with women in development at Kampung Sungai Gulang in Kuala Selangor, followed by shopping in some of the major malls in Kuala Lumpur.

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