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Miri City Fan - a place worth taking snapshots

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A VISIT to Miri, the oil town of Sarawak, is considered incomplete without a peek at the multi-million ringgit Miri City Fan, with its majestic fountains, multi-ethnicity gardens and beautiful landscapes.

Built with the concept of a world-class park city in the midst of tall buildings, the project's name was derived from its design layout.

It is shaped like a fan from a bird's eye view.

It is the brainchild of Sarawak Chief Minister Tan Sri Abdul Taib Mahmud in line with Vision 2005 - a goal aimed at making Miri a resort city by 2005.

The project was implemented and maintained by the Miri Municipal Council.

The consultants are United Consultants and Teo A. Khing Design Consultants Sdn Bhd.

Spanning 10.4 hectares, Miri City Fan stretches from Dewan Suarah Miri to the Miri River and encompasses the Miri public swimming pool and Miri stadium.

It is designed to create a civic-consciousness by the inclusion of several symbolic parks.

The ground-breaking ceremony for Phase One was done on Dec 13, 1993, by the Chief Minister.

Engineering works cost RM1.6 million while the civic promenade cost RM3.7 million. It was completed in August 1996.

The civic promenade boasts impressive bas-reliefs reflecting the traditional, local and cultural heritage as well as Miri's vision for the future.

Phase Two started with the ground-breaking ceremony by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad on Aug 18, 1997.

This phase consists of a Garden of Vision, which is a grand amphitheatre designed to create the feeling of spiritual awareness of Vision 2005, and four pavilions symbolising social progress and harmony.

The amphitheatre can also double as a stage for outdoor performances with a world-class musical fountain as a backdrop.

The second phase is also the largest of three phases and in it one can also find the Islamic Garden, which is built next to the At-Taqwa Mosque.

It showcases elements such as a dome, arches, Islamic motifs, formal painting and water features which display Islamic symbols and traditions.

The Chinese Garden is situated opposite the Islamic Garden, across the amphitheatre. It depicts the Chinese cultural heritage with a gateway, gazebo and bridges over ponds.

Two more gardens that are equally unique are the Formal Garden consisting of a classical water fountain and the Botanical Ethnic Garden which incorporates symbolic elements of various ethnic groups of Sarawak including Iban, Bidayuh and Orang Ulu.

The herb garden and the local traditional sculptures within provide a feeling of harmony within diversity.

The overall cost of the gardens is RM14.3 million while the water features cost RM1.4 million.

Locals and visitors alike can be seen strolling and taking photographs here as the gardens are beautifully landscaped with greenery.

The final phase is expected to start early this year and to be completed in 15 months.

Phase Three is the Miri Cultural Resource Centre and costs RM13 million. The new Miri library will be situated here and will be a centre for development of various cultural aspects of Sarawak.

Shaped like a horse-shoe, the building is designed as a tranquil oasis of cultural awareness.

It will have both an auditorium and a museum plus a courtyard for indoor and outdoor exhibits.

The Miri Cultural Resource Centre will be the symbolic centre of cultural knowledge in the heart of Miri Resort City come 2005.

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