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`Rainforest rhythms' at Golden Horses

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DRIED leaves covered the floor, potted plants adorned the venue and sounds of crickets, birds and primates filled the air and turned the Royal Ballroom into a forest fit for its "Rhythms of the Rainforest" theme.

All these are hallmarks of the recent Millennium Leaders Summit Gala Dinner at Palace of the Golden Horses' ballroom.

For three days, the resort hosted the Summit that was launched by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad for the International Meetings Industry. The event brought together industry leaders from the MICE industry and high-profile media from around the world.

It was organised by the Joint Meetings Industry Council (JMIC) with the support of Malaysian members of the International Congress and Convention Association (ICCA), Tourism Malaysia and Malaysia Airlines.

The dinner was hosted by the Minister of Culture, Arts and Tourism Datuk Abdul Kadir Sheikh Fadzir.

Present were the presidents of JMIC Vito Marzo, International Association Convention and Visitor Bureaus' Edward Nielsen, ICCA Tuula's Lindberg, Association of International Congress Centres' (AIPC) Laure Mouton, International Association of Conference Interpreters' (AIIC) Jean Pierre Allain and Honorary president of Confederation of Latin America Conference Organisers (COCAL).

Others include executive director of ICCA Tom Hulton, chief operating officer of Mines Holdings Sdn Bhd Amer Hamzah, director-general of Tourism Malaysia Abdullah Jonid, vice-president Passenger Sales MAS Datuk Rashid Khan and general manager of Sabah Tourism Promotion Corporation Irene Benggon Charuruks.

It started with a batik painting demonstration by Azian Selamat, caricature drawing by Norhisyam Asmawi, fortune-telling by renowned soothsayer Master Chin and Sarawak sape-making demonstration by Matthew Ngau and Uchau Bilong.

The evening was filled with cultural shows and dances by the Malaysian Tourism Cultural Dance Group. Television personality Mahadzir Lokman and radio deejay Yasmin Yusoff were MCs for the evening.

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