

KLIA is tops in landscaping

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MALAYSIA Airports Holding Berhad (MAHB), the operator of Kuala Lumpur International Airport (KLIA), is one of the five recipients of the Special National Landscape Awards 2001.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad presented the award to the then MAHB managing director, Tan Sri Othman Mohd Rijal, in Putrajaya on March 4 in conjunction with National Landscape Day.

The award is for MAHB's "outstanding contributions and commitment to maintaining the country's natural heritage", evident from KLIA's "airport-in-forest" concept.

"It is heartening to be one of the recipients of the prestigious award. MAHB will continue to beautify KLIA in line with its airport-in-the-forest concept," said Malaysia Airports Agriculture & Horticulture Sdn Bhd (MAAH) general manager Mohd Nasir Ismail in a statement.

MAAH, a MAHB subsidiary, is responsible for the upkeep and maintenance of the landscape.

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tinue to beautify KLIA in line with the airport-in-the-forest concept," he said.

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The task of transforming the area from a hostile environment into forest ambience concept was pioneered by a landscape committee headed by Ariffin Md Rafii who enlisted the help of the Forest Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM).

The statement said the surrounding areas of KLIA were planted with trees from forests of Rembau, Senawang and FRIM in Kepong as they were deemed to have the highest survival rate.

It said some half a million tropical trees, palms, plants, bamboo and shrubs of about 200 to 400 species were also transplanted from the jungles to create a veritable forest within the airport occupying 120 hectares of land.

The forest ambience blends with its high-tech system and showcases MAHB's experience in blending hi-tech development with the environment.