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BFA-VENUE

BOAO FORUM'S INAUGURATION AT GIANT TENT-LIKE STRUCTURE

By: Yong Soo Heong

BOAO (Hainan), Feb 26 (Bernama) -- The inauguration of the Boao Forum for Asia (BFA) will be held at the Boao Plaza, a giant tent-like structure almost similar to the one at the Bt Jalil Sports Complex in Kuala Lumpur.

The semi-open structure can accommodate about 500 people or so and is located near the popular Jade Beach, here.

A hive of activity surrounds the Boao Plaza as workmen toil to put the finishing touches to the meeting place. Lorry-loads of potted plants are being brought in to liven up the place.

Thousands of banners proclaiming the ideals of BFA -- equality, mutual benefit, win-win and co-existence -- flutter proudly against the strong winds under the current rainy spell.

A stone's throw away from the Boao Plaza is the spanking new and five-star Boao Gold Coast Hot Spring Hotel, the venue of the bilateral talks between Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and Chinese president Jiang Zemin on Monday evening

The hotel is part of the Phase One development of the Boao Aquapolis, a massive world class resort development project covering three phases and lasting until 2012.

Dr Mahathir and Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali will stay at one of the 10 villas specially built for dignitaries attending the BFA.

Boao is located in Qiong Hai County and the idea to establish the Boao Aquapolis was formed in 1992. Actual construction work began in 1996.

Not far from the Boao Plaza is the four-star Jin Jiang Boao Hot Spring Hotel, which has just been completed, to accommodate the delegates to the BFA.

-- BERNAMA

SHY MKO SEL