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PATA-Performers

MORE THAN 100 LIVE PERFORMERS WELCOMING PATA DELEGATES

KUALA LUMPUR, April 2 (Bernama) -- The live performance by host country Malaysia at the official opening of the Pacific Asia Travel Association's (PATA) 50th Annual Conference here on April 9 is based on the development of dance and music of both traditional and contemporary forms, in line with PATA's motto: "Proud Past - Promising Future".

More than 100 live performers will participate in the spectacular multimedia cultural show, welcoming all delegates to 'Malaysia - Truly Asia' soon after the opening ceremony by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

According to PATA's secretariat, the sequence starts with 'Sembah Pendekar' -- a welcoming gesture performed by male dancers in the form of silat steps and movement.

'Silat' is the Malay art of self-defence.

For this special occasion the silat is accompanied by 'Silambam' the Indian form of martial arts and the 'Wu Shu' by the Chinese.

Malaysian music and dance has a noticeable influence from the Indians, Chinese and the Arabs. Another major dance form presented for this occasion is 'Zapin' which was introduced into the Malay Peninsula by the Arab communities in the state of Johore.

PATA's secretariat adds the show should be viewed as a two-part piece.

The opening depicts the skill of the adults while the children are the curious onlookers who are eager to learn and participate in the dance routine.

The closing part starts from where the opening ends and this time around the children are taking over the centrestage as trained dancers and musician.

The adults are the proud onlookers. Big happy smiles on their faces are the contented look after being successfully able to hand down the proud past traditions to their youngs who will go on proudly practising the art in the future.

Producer and artistic director Dr Hatta Azad Khan, choreographer Zulkarnain Ramli and music composer Ayub Ibrahim are among those who will ensure that the performance would reflect the true Malaysian culture.

Dr Hatta who is responsible for conceptualising the whole event is currently Director of the National Arts Academy. He holds a Master degree in Theatre Directing and Scenography from Purdue University and a Ph.D in Film Studies from the University of New South Wales.

He is a playwright/director working in theatre, film and television.

Zulkarnain or Nain as he is fondly known holds a BA in Dance from Middlesex University and currently a cultural officer with the Ministry of Culture, Arts and Tourism Malaysia.

While Ayub is a music teacher and composer with a degree in music from University Institute Technology Mara (UiTM) and teaches music at the National Arts Academy as well as UiTM in Shah Alam. -- BERNAMA

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