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Our dancers steals the show

IT was an opening fit for the Golden Jubilee celebrations of the Pacific Asia Travel Association annual conference.

The five-day Pata 2001 conference was officiated by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, but it was the cultural performance that stole the show.

The cultural dance troupe from Istana Budaya put up a lively performance of Malay, Indian, Chinese and Sarawak dances, enthralling the 1,325 delegates from 55 countries.

Their colourful costumes dazzled - literally - as they were liberally decorated with the colour gold, from the bunga telur to the headgear.

The delegates, in the Merdeka Hall of the Putra World Trade Centre, couldn't hide their delight, clapping and cheering along.

A delegate said she had never seen such a spectacular show.

"The opening has set the mood for the rest of the conference which I am sure will be as interesting and lively," she said.

Another delegate, and first-timer to Malaysia, said he had often heard of Malaysia and was glad that he attended the conference.

"It was a colourful show and, I hope, a true depiction of how colourful Malaysia and her people are," he said, adding that he was looking forward to the post-conference tour to Pulau Redang.

Pata members represent government tourism bodies, airlines and travel industry firms such as hotels, tour companies and travel agencies.

In addition to presenting delegates with a prime opportunity to visit Malaysia, the conference offers a valuable educational programme and networking opportunities.

This is the third time Malaysia is hosting the annual Pata conference.

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