

10/07/2001

PM to open expo on `Islamic art in China`

KUALA LUMPUR, Mon. - Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad is expected to open the "Six Centuries Of Islamic Art In China" exhibition at the Islamic Arts Museum here on July 28.

Featuring cultural artefacts of the Chinese Muslims from the 14th to the 20th century, the exhibition is being held in collaboration with the Museum of Cultural Palace of Nationalities in Beijing, and North West Minorities University in Lanzhou, China.

The exhibition, which will be held until Oct 28, will provide an insight into the coming of Islam to China, the exchanges between the Islamic and Chinese worlds, and the rich cultural diversity of its vast lands.

Other highlights include Islamic architectural models, Qurans and manuscripts, Islamic arts of the Malay world, Islamic arts of China, Islamic art of India, textiles, ceramics, glass, jewellery, metalwork, arms and armour.

Little known to most outside China, there are 10 Chinese Muslim ethnic groups of which the majority are found in the Northwest.

This vast area encompasses a large section of the Silk Road that once served as a trade link and a point of cultural dissemination between the islamic West, European East, Northern Mongolia and the rest of China.

Also on display are traditional costumes, musical instruments, historical documents and utilitarian items used by each of the various Islamic Chinese ethnic groups.

These costumes have different techniques of decoration and symbolism behind the decorative motifs.

The Islamic Arts Museum's most recent publication which illustrates the history and art of Muslim China, the land and its people, will also be available to the public.

Opening hours are from 10am to 6pm from Tuesday to Sunday.

Entrance fee is RM8 for adults, RM4 for students senior citizens, and RM3 for schoolchildren in uniform in a group of 30 with advance arrangement.

Children below six years are admitted free-of-charge.

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