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Science-guides

SARAWAK TOURIST GUIDES VISITS NATIONAL SCIENCE

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 7 (Bernama) -- The RM150-million National Science Centre (NSC) at Bukit Kiara here, which showcases Malaysia's technological achievements, among other things, is also aiming at attracting domestic and foreign tourists, apart from students.

Of particular interest to foreign tourists is the Malaysian Technology Section, especially on the automotive, rubber and tin industries, according to NSC assistant principal director Choong Kok Eng.

He was briefing a group of visiting Sarawak tourist guides, who are members of the Sarawak Tourist Guides Association (STGA) on a familiarisation tour of Peninsular Malaysia, on the centre's display galleries, its activities and educational programmes.

The visit to the centre, with its large dome at Bukit Kiara, was arranged by the Kuala Lumpur Tourist Guides Association (KLTGA).

The NSC is the brainchild of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad to create what one of its officials described as awareness especially the young members of today's generation in Malaysia on the importance of science and technology in the new millennium and to create a science-and-technology-literate society.

Choong said the NSC's targets are young Malaysians in line with the government's aim of getting 40 per cent of school-going children to take up study in science subjects.

"We're also hoping to attract tourists, and we think the Malaysian Technology Section will be of particular interest to them, especially as it shows Malaysia's leading edge technologies in the rubber and tin industries, especially our achievements in the automotive industry," he said.

A spokesman for the Sarawak Tourist Guides Association said the centre's exhibits, especially its Environmental Odyssey Gallery, a Malaysian rainforest-created with special sound effects of gibbons, monkeys and birds and the tropical fish aquarium, would be of interest to domestic tourists.

The centre boasts about 1000 exhibits, state-of-the-art technologies, engineering feats and the ingenuities of world renowned scientists. It comes under the Ministry of Science, Technology and Environment.

According to Choong, the NSC held a roadshow or exhibition in Sarawak about two years ago and plan to hold another one next year. A similar roadshow was held in Sabah earlier this year.

It also plans to hold roadshows in the main towns in Peninsular Malaysia.

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