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Pata-Tours

SPECIAL COUNTERS FOR PATA POST-CONFERENCE TOURS

KUALA LUMPUR, April 2 (Bernama) -- The Malaysian Association of Tour and Travel Agents (Matta) is making efforts to boost post-conference tours of the 50th Pacific Asia Travel Association's (Pata) Annual Conference which kicks off on Sunday.

Matta vice president (inbound) Peter Kan said special counters would be set up at the conference venue at the Putra World Trade Centre here and hotels to cater for what he described as "last-minute decision-makers".

So far only 40 out of the 1,100 confirmed delegates and about 40 foreign media representatives had registered for the tours to some 10 destinations throughout the country, he told Bernama today.

"This is a very important conference for Malaysia," he said of the five-day PATA 2001 to be opened by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

Matta, a member of the PATA organising committee, had been tasked with handling post-conference tours and transportation for delegates and media representatives.

"We don't know the reason for the poor response (for the post-conference tours) but these destinations are being offered at cheap rates," he said.

The destinations include Penang, Langkawi, Pangkor, Melaka, Sabah, Sarawak and Redang Marine Park in Terengganu.

The conference is expected to draw some 1,800 delegates from the tourism and tourism-related fields such as airlines, shipping lines, travel agents and tour operators.

On transportation, Matta has arranged 40 shuttle buses for routes such as the KL International Airport (KLIA) in Sepang, hotels and the venue of the conference themed "Proud Past, Promising Future."

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