

KL Convention Centre likely ready for soft-opening in 2004

BY ELAINE ANG

STAR 12 FEB 2003

THE Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre is expected to be ready for a soft opening by the end of next year and to host its first international event in May 2005, said Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre Sdn Bhd chairman Tan Sri Mohd Hassan Marican.

"The convention centre is planned as a multi-purpose venue aimed at providing world-class exhibition and conference facilities and services," he said.

Hassan said this at the launch of the development of the centre by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad in Kuala Lumpur yesterday.

Situated on seven acres within the Kuala Lumpur City Centre, the convention centre will comprise, amongst other facilities, 110,000 sq ft of exhibition space, a 3,000-seat plenary hall, a 500-seat theatre, a grand ballroom which can accommodate up to 2,500 people, two large conference halls as well as a 600-room convention hotel.

The convention centre will also

have an interesting feature - a walk-through aquarium with more than 3,000 tropical marine species.

The aquarium, to be called Aquaria@KLCC, will be owned and operated by New Zealand-based Aquawalk International Ltd.

Hassan said the convention centre would be another landmark for Malaysia and further boost Kuala Lumpur's stature as a well-planned, well-equipped and modern cosmopolitan.

Dr Mahathir said in his speech that the convention centre was a good venture for KLCC (Holdings) Bhd as the economy was expected to recover at the time when the convention centre was scheduled to be completed and the facilities would be provided "just in time".

He said Kuala Lumpur is still growing and the opportunities for meetings, incentives, conventions and exhibitions (MICE) would be growing too.

The centre is owned by Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre Sdn Bhd, a wholly-owned subsidiary of KLCC (Holdings) Bhd.