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Convention-PCC

PUTRAJAYA CONVENTION CENTRE - THE NEWEST ICON FOR PUTRAJAYA

PUTRAJAYA, June 9 (Bernama) -- The Putrajaya Convention Centre (PCC), the spanking new landmark of the Federal Administrative Centre of Putrajaya - is set to play host to numerous international events following the handing over of the facility to the government today.

The RM650 million state-of-the-art architectural wonder will open its doors to the delegates of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) Putrajaya Summit in October.

The brainchild of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, who was present at today's handing over ceremony, it commands a prime hill-top location at the southernmost point of Putrajaya's core area in Precint 5.

With more than five halls and a total seating capacity for 10,000 people, the visually futuristic nine-storey building represents the nation's largest and most technologically sophisticated convention centre.

In slightly less than two years, the PCC construction was completed, an event marked by the handing over of the facility by developer Putrajaya Holdings Sdn Bhd to the government.

Putrajaya Holdings Chief Executive Officer Datuk Mohamad Othman Zainal Azim said the speedy construction of the massive PCC was made possible with the use of fast-track construction system.

"It has been built within the timeframe in order to be ready for the OIC Summit in October," he told reporters during a recent media familiarisation tour of the facility.

He said the 135,000 sq metre-PCC would give a major boost to Malaysia in its quest to become one of the world's sought-after destinations for international meetings and conventions.

Mohamad Othman said the PCC, which sits on a 20.4-hectare site, is poised to strengthen Malaysia's position in the world's meeting and convention centre market.

"Since the convention centre has been built to cater for the most prominent international meetings and conferences, it will serve its purpose well as it has the capacity to accommodate the largest of conventions," he said.

Up till now, Malaysia has only two venues for conventions -- the Putra World Trade Centre (PWTC) in downtown Kuala Lumpur and The Palace of The Golden Horses in Seri Kembangan.

Mohamad Othman said these two do not have the capacity to host large gatherings in the league of the United Nations and the G-77 (Group of Developing Countries).

Explaining the architectural aspects of the PCC, he said, it was inspired by the unusual contours of the 60-metre hill on which it sits and conjured a rounded diamond-shaped "Pending Perak" or silver royal belt buckle.

"The overall design is spherical with an oval "eye" occupying the nucleus where, on different levels, the major halls are located.

"There are more than five halls in total but the three principal ones are the Plenary Hall on the first floor, the Head of States Hall on the ground floor and the Banquet Hall on the lower ground level," Mohamad Othman said.

He said reflecting the Pending Perak motif, the 50 other rooms including lounges, galleries, prayer rooms, viewing decks, kitchen, cafe and restaurant had been arranged in concentric circles emanating from the

central nucleus or the `eye' of the buckle.

Areas surrounding the PCC will also be landscaped and adorned with structures such as waterways, bridges and minarets.

"A viewing deck on the first floor of the centre offers a spectacular vision of the surrounding. Cutting a clean line across the middle of this panoramic scene is a 4.2km boulevard running from Bangunan Perdana Putra or the Prime Minister's Office, among major government offices and "datarans", and over a magnificent bridge, inspired by Pont Alexandre III in Paris, to the convention centre," he said.

Mohamad Othman said the PCC completed Putrajaya as an ultra-modern, self-contained administrative capital.

"But it will have more than just national impact. It will place Malaysia on the global map and will encourage representatives from all round the world to visit our shores," he added.

-- BERNAMA

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