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CONVENTION-HOST

KUALA LUMPUR CONVENTION CENTRE SET TO HOST INTERNATIONAL EVENT IN 2005

KUALA LUMPUR, Feb 11 (Bernama) -- The Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre project is expected to be ready for soft opening by 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.

He said that the convention centre was planned as a multi-purpose venue aimed at providing a world-class exhibition and conference facilities and services.

"We are committed to ensure that the excellent physical infrastructure is matched with the provision of equally excellent services," he said in his speech at the launch of the development of the Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, here today.

Situated on seven acres (2.8ha) of land, it will comprise among others a 110,000 sq ft columnless exhibition space with floor to ceiling clearance of 12 metres, a 3,000 seat plenary hall, a 500 seat theatre and a grand ballroom which can accommodate up to 2,500 people.

The convention centre would be equipped with state-of-the-art wireless, telecommunication and digital audio-visual facilities with a satellite link to cater for offsite presenters.

Mohd Hassan said that the convention centre was one of the key components of the Kuala Lumpur City Centre (KLCC) masterplan and would be a major activity generator complementing the rest of the development.

A 600-room convention hotel will also be built within the complex.

Another exciting feature will be the walk-through aquarium with more than 3,000 tropical marine species.

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

Aquaria@KLCC will promote education and entertainment through interaction with the environment. -- BERNAMA

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