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## Landscape and garden show

By Shuib Taib

IT'S all pretty sights and beautiful smells at Perdana Lake Gardens in Kuala Lumpur where the Malaysian International Landscape and Garden Festival is being held until Sunday.

In line with the Government's plan to make Malaysia a garden nation by 2005, Laman 2004, as it is called, covers 29 hectares and is the platform of not only innovative garden and floral displays but also a showcase for products and services.

Organised by the National Landscape Department, hosted by Kuala Lumpur City Hall and managed by Festival Laman 2004, the event is expected to be the biggest garden festival in Asia.

The brainchild of former Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad, it has drawn garden enthusiasts, floral designers, gardening retailers, homeowners as well as those in the landscape industry, such as exterior furniture importers and even housing developers.

There are at least 150 garden designs on display, featuring works by local governments, city councils, companies and universities.

Among the participants are SP Setia Bhd, Alpine Dynamics (M) Sdn Bhd, the Johor State Landscape Department, Johor district councils, the National Parks Board of Singapore and the Dutch embassy.

Kejuruteraan Kesenian Hua May's entry, the Water Feng Shui Garden, is an intriguing entry.

Equally eye-catching is the section by Shrubs and Creepers, featuring "a garden that doesn't quite exist, the Malay Garden," said its owner, Rudin Hasan.

Rudin's collection of wild and scented plants features those one normally found in a kampung, such as melor, keladi, pisang, hibiscus and pucuk rebung.

Universiti Putra Malaysia, International Islamic University of Malaysia, Universiti Teknologi Mara, Universiti Teknologi Malaysia and Universiti Sains Malaysia also took part the exhibition and most chose recycling as the theme.

Visitors can also check out kiosks selling handicraft and a "Malaysian Village" section showcasing interesting aspects of Malaysian culture.

Visitors will also be treated to performances and demonstrations at the main stage area.

The Malaysia International Landscape and Garden Festival is open from 11am to 10pm. Entrance fee is RM2 for adults, RM1 for children aged between six and 12 and free for children below six.

On Saturday, visitors are advised to use public transport and shuttle services provided at the KL Sentral Station, City Hall Headquarters and the National Mosque. The services are available every half hour starting from 10.30am and the last trip from Lake Gardens is at 10.30pm.

The shuttle will run daily during the festival. Entrance to Laman 2004 are via Kelab Perdana DiRaja, Pustaka Perkhidmatan Awam KL and at the rear of the National Museum.

For more information, call Festival Laman 2004 Sdn Bhd at 03-2698711 or 012-210-4068 or visit the website at [www.laman2004.com](http://www.laman2004.com).

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