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Landscape and garden festival in KL next year

A LANDSCAPE and garden festival will be held at the Hibiscus Garden, Perdana Lake Gardens in Kuala Lumpur from July 17 to 25 next year.

The Malaysia International Landscape & Garden Festival, or Laman 2004, is expected to draw some 50,000 visitors from the country and abroad.

Deputy Housing and Local Government Minister Datuk Peter Chin Fah Kui said the festival, themed "Colours Amidst Gardens", was being organised by the National Landscape Department and hosted by Kuala Lumpur City Hall.

It is expected to be the biggest garden festival not only in Malaysia but also Asia.

"The brainchild of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, it will attract garden enthusiasts, floral designers, gardening retailers, homeowners as well as those in the landscape industry, such as exterior furniture importers and even housing developers.

"It is part of efforts to attain the PM's vision of making Malaysia a Garden Nation by 2005. The ministry hopes to showcase what can be done by the local horticultural community and with the Malaysian flora and fauna," said Chin.

Neighbouring countries such as Thailand, Singapore, Indonesia and the Philippines will be invited to take part.

The word "laman" is taken from two words - "la" from landscape and "man" from taman, the Malay word for garden. It highlights the essence of the festival which is to showcase landscapes and gardens.

For the event, the park will be divided into various zones. The "World of Gardens", for instance, will display 60 themed gardens while the "Garden Expo" will sell garden products and plants.

Other zones include "LandTech Zone", "Playland", "Festival Walk", "Floral Enclave", "DIY Pavilions" and "Floral Trail & Floral Sculpture".

Also present at the Press conference were National Landscape Department director-general Datuk Ismail Ngah and City Hall deputy director-general (services) Salleh Yusup.