

**Homestay A Potential Income Earner If Managed Professionally: Dawos
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KUCHING, March 23 (Bernama) -- Homestay operators in the country could rake in a higher income if these facilities are managed more systematically and professionally, Deputy Minister of Tourism Datuk Dr James Dawos Mamit said.

He said homestay had long existed in countries like Australia and New Zealand and had successfully yielded good profits as they were managed professionally with effective marketing strategy.

"Homestay operators need to fully utilise the country's ecotourism potentials by attracting more foreign tourists through professional management, coupled with in-depth tourist data," he said when closing Sarawak Homestay Entrepreneur Workshop here Friday.

He said the success of homestay programme in Sabah in attracting about 17,000 visitors with RM2.5 million in revenue in 2010 proved the programme's great potentials.

Apart from Sabah, he said, Pahang also recorded a huge success, with 33,000 visitors generating RM1.6 million income, while Selangor recorded 35,000 visitors and RM1.7 million in revenue.

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