

Tamparuli's Bamboo Festival

A Bamboo festival will be held in Tamparuli on Nov 28 this year. The event to start at 9.30am at the Tun Hamdan Multipurpose Hall will see several activities during the one day event.

This includes performances by a Bamboo Orchestra from the Association of Bamboo Orchestras (OMBAK).

The audience will not only be able to appreciate performances from the Bamboo orchestra, but also be entertained by musical talents from contestants to the traditional musical instrument's playing competition.

The competition is expected to be interesting and entertaining as participants will be accompanied by a proper orchestra.

According to spokesperson for the event Jane Ting, a 'Bamboo Unplugged' competition will be held among Bamboo Orchestras. They stand to win vouchers worth RM2000 each to go towards the purchase of piano as well as other prizes.

There is a bamboo stilt walking competition on that day with two categories to choose from. The first category is for Children and the second category is for adults. Winners of the competition stand to win various interesting prizes.

The Bamboo Festival is one of the festivals listed under the Calendar of Events 2007.

The organizers hope that Tamparuli dwellers as well as tourists will come and witness the event.

Well, if you are at the vicinity at this moment, come and see the festival; with your guests. I am sure it will be very interesting.



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STAR's win



STAFF OF SHANGRI-LA'S TANJUNG ARU RESORT AND SPA (STARS) returned from the recent 10th Sabah Hospitality Fiesta with gold and bronze medals. Pauline Blasius won a gold medal in the "Patisserie - Petit Four and Pralines" category, while Khairul Azizi Bohindang won a gold medal in the "Fruit and Vegetable Carving" category.

Bronze medals went to James Kunang in the "Patisserie - Pastry Showpiece" and Jusup Saginah in the "Artistic - Ice Carving" category. The Sabah Hospitality Fiesta this year held at Asia City Complex is an annual event that provides an opportunity to highlight the talents of hoteliers and promote the hospitality industry in Sabah.

Present during the competition and giving full support to STARS were Param Sivasamy, the resort's director of human resources, management staff and colleagues.

Hong Kong-based Shangri-La Hotels and Resorts currently manage 54 hotels under Shangri-La and Traders brands with a room's inventory of over 24,000. Shangri-La hotels are five-star deluxe properties featuring extensive luxury facilities and services. Shangri-La hotels are located in Australia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Sultanate of Oman, Taiwan, Thailand and the United Arab Emirates. The group has over 45 projects under development in Austria, Canada, mainland China, France, India, Japan, Macau, Maldives, Philippines, Qatar, Seychelles, Thailand, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom and the United States. For more information or reservations, please contact a travel professional or access the website at www.shangri-la.com.

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Here is some information about Sabah that you could share with your tourists. Sabah is located on the Northern Part of Borneo. Borneo is the third largest island in the world, the first being Greenland and second New Guinea. Borneo Island is located in the Malay Archipelago, south eastern Asia.

As it is an Island, Borneo is surrounded by the sea. In the east is the Sulu Sea, the Celebes Sea, and the Makassar Strait, while to the south is the Java Sea and on the west and north the South China Sea.

Politically, Borneo is divided into Sabah and Sarawak, which are states of Malaysia; Brunei, an independent sultanate; and Kalimantan which is part of Indonesia. The area is 751,100 square kilometres.

Most part of Borneo is mountainous. This is especially true in the northern and central sections. Most of the peaks are between about 3000 and 7500 feet high. The island's highest peak is situated in Sabah; the Mount Kinabalu which stands at 13,435 feet.

This island being in the tropics has an average annual temperature of about 26° Celsius. Rainfall is heavy especially during the monsoon season which occurs between May and October.

The flora is luxuriant and highly diversified. Rhododendron, orchid, pitcher plant, and other flowering plants grow in great abundance especially in the highland. It is believed that about 50 species of timber trees grow in the dense forests including teak, ironwood, ebony and sandalwood.

In the northern portion of the island, notably Sabah, orangutan, gibbon, proboscis monkey, and wild ox as well as elephants and rhinoceroses live.

There are also several species of monkey, tiger cat, tapir, porcupine and various species of deer. The Estuarine crocodile as well as several varieties of lizards also live here.

As for history, briefly, a company chartered by the British crown administered North Borneo, now Sabah, from 1881. In 1888, it was made a British protectorate. The Japanese occupied much of Borneo from 1942 to 1945, after which it was made a British crown colony.

In 1963 Sabah and Sarawak merged with peninsular Malaya to form the Federation of Malaysia. Kota Kinabalu is the State Capital of Sabah.

