Headline	New green attraction			
MediaTitle	The Star			
Date	05 Mar 2012	Color	Full Color	
Section	Metro	Circulation	304,904	
Page No	10,11	Readership	1,026,812	
Language	English	ArticleSize	1036 cm <sup>2</sup>	
Journalist	CHRISTINA CHIN	AdValue	RM 48,061	
Frequency	Daily	PR Value	RM 144,184	



## New green attraction

Bamboo-themed souvenir shop and symphony in the works

**Dateline: Penang** 

**CHRISTINA CHIN** 

sgchris@thestar.com.my

Photos by CHAN BOON KAI

ATURE lovers will get a chance to enjoy a new green attraction at the Penang Botanic Gardens when a bamboo appreciation centre is constructed this year.

State Botanic Gardens department assistant director Salasiah Yusop said the environmental-friendly structure in the bambusetum would be built entirely out of bamboo.

"An officer from the National Landscape Department will visit the bambusetum on March 9 and subsequently prepare a Bill of Quantity (BQ) for the project.

"The BQ will outline the work scope and once that is done, we can engage a contractor," she said, adding that a souvenir shop selling items made of bamboo would be part of the structure

The cost of the bamboo appreciation centre would be borne by the state government.

On when the bambusetum would be officially launched and opened to the public, well. Salasiah said the procurement and planting of the bamboo plants began in November last year and was completed on Feb 15.

"Now, the plants are being nurtured so that they can grow and flourish — a lot of what's going on is maintenance work.

"A proper opening ceremony will only be held at the end of the year as we want to make sure that the centre is ready and everything is perfect.

"However, the public is free to visit the bambusetum anytime, as we've never fenced it up," she said when met at the gardens recently.

Close to 40 different bamboo species from all over the country have been planted at the bambusetum.

ation centre is constructed this year.

Salasiah said the Forest Research Institute
State Botanic Gardens department assistant Malaysia (FRIM) had provided invaluable guid-

ance to the department in selecting and caring for the plants.

The bambusetum is part of the Tourism Ministry's RM7mil Botanic Gardens expansion project which also comprised a new visitors' pavilion, facade and eco-stream walkway.

The project was completed in early 2011. The Tourism Ministry had allocated an addi-

tional RM450,000 to enhance and maintain the bambusetum collection after criticisms by nongovernmental organisations (NGOs) that the attraction was devoid of bamboo plants.

The ministry's Penang office director Jamie Yeoh said the bambusetum was progressing well.

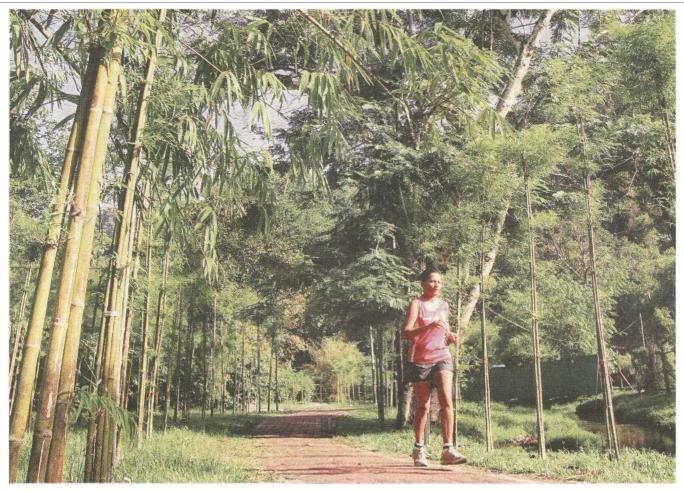
"We have been monitoring the project close-

ly and are excited to showcase it to the public.

"We are planning an event called the 'Bamboo Symphony' to highlight research on the plants as well as its traditional usage in everyday life and music.

"It will be interesting," she said, adding that the event was slated for the fourth quarter of the year.

Headline	New green attraction			
MediaTitle	The Star			
Date	05 Mar 2012	Color	Full Color	
Section	Metro	Circulation	304,904	
Page No	10,11	Readership	1,026,812	
Language	English	ArticleSize	1036 cm <sup>2</sup>	
Journalist	CHRISTINA CHIN	AdValue	RM 48,061	
Frequency	Daily	PR Value	RM 144,184	



## Green space: A jogger running through the beautifully landscaped bambusetum.



Looking good: A gardener carrying out maintenance work at the bambusetum.

Headline	New green attraction			
MediaTitle	The Star			
Date	05 Mar 2012	Color	Full Color	
Section	Metro	Circulation	304,904	
Page No	10,11	Readership	1,026,812	
Language	English	ArticleSize	1036 cm <sup>2</sup>	
Journalist	CHRISTINA CHIN	AdValue	RM 48,061	
Frequency	Daily	PR Value	RM 144,184	



With care: A gardener pruning one of the bamboo plants.

Headline	New green attraction			
MediaTitle	The Star			
Date	05 Mar 2012	Color	Full Color	
Section	Metro	Circulation	304,904	
Page No	10,11	Readership	1,026,812	
Language	English	ArticleSize	1036 cm <sup>2</sup>	
Journalist	CHRISTINA CHIN	AdValue	RM 48,061	
Frequency	Daily	PR Value	RM 144,184	



Growing with flourish: A gardener tending to the plants at the bambusetum.