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Wetland Park to provide the needs and comfort of pandas

PUTRAJAYA: The Wetland Park will have a pair of pandas from China, symbolic of its 40-year-old diplomatic relations with Malaysia, and will endeavour to provide to their needs.

Putrajaya Corporation President Tan Sri Samsudin Osman said this was to ensure that the bears would be comfortable being in this country for a long period of time.

"We need to provide a similar temperature to their place of origin as we have a different weather. Maybe, through air conditioning," he said, here yesterday.

He said the Wetland Park would have a 1.1-hectare site for the pandas while 6.07 hectares would be set aside for planting bamboo which is the animal's diet.

Placing the pandas at the Wetland Park was an honour to Malaysia and gave value-added to the park in terms of attracting tourists, he said.

The pandas were loaned by the China Wildlife Conservation Association (CWCA) for 10 years, under an agreement expected to be signed with the Malaysian government today.

The agreement to loan the pandas was made following a request from Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak to China's Prime Minister Wen Jiabao during his visit to Nanning to open the Malaysia-China Industrial Park.

In the meantime, Samsuddin said studies were being done with the cooperation of the Forest Research Institute of Malaysia (FRIM) on the dietary patterns

of the pandas which ate 15 types of bamboos.

He said, coincidentally, three of the 15 bamboo species were already available here.

FRIM Director-General Datuk Dr. Abd Latif Mohmod, a renowned international expert on bamboo, would provide inputs on the planting of bamboos needed by the pandas. - Bernama



TAN Sri Samsudin Osman (third left) showing the Chinese delegation from China Wildlife Conservation and Panda Conservator and Research Centre on one of the types of bamboo used as diet for the pandas during their visit to Putrajaya Wetland Park
PHOTO: BERNAMA