

Headline	Local experts to receive giant pandas in mid April		
MediaTitle	New Sarawak Tribune		
Date	02 Apr 2014	Color	Black/white
Section	News	Circulation	46,471
Page No	2	Readership	164,773
Language	English	ArticleSize	110 cm ²
Journalist	N/A	AdValue	RM 320
Frequency	Daily (EM)	PR Value	RM 960



Local experts to receive giant pandas in mid April

KUALA LUMPUR: Officers and local experts are ready to receive the two giant pandas from China that are scheduled to arrive here by mid April.

Deputy minister of Natural Resources and Environment Datuk Seri Dr James Dawos Mamit told the Dewan Rakyat that eight officers of the Wildlife and National Park Department (Perhilitan) and four veterinary experts had been sent to undergo training at the Dujiangyan Giant Pandas Conservation And Disease Control Centre.

“They were sent for a one-month training at the centre for the duration the panda was quarantined there before the pair is sent to Malaysia on 15 April.

“Experts from China will also accompany the pandas here to monitor their local counterparts who will be looking after the pandas,” he said.

Dawos said this when winding up the debate on the Supplementary Supply Bill (2013) 2014 for his ministry at the committee level here, yesterday.

On the issue of expenditure for the pandas’ feed, Dawos clarified that the bamboo species consumed by the pandas existed here while the Malaysian Forest Research Institute (FRIM) had taken measures to ensure sufficient supply of bamboo leaves for the duration of the pandas’ stay here.

“If fact, samples of the bamboo leaf from our country were also sent to the panda quarantine centre to familiarise the pandas with eating the leaves. We were informed the pandas liked our bamboo leaves,” he said. - Bernama