

Headline	Bamboo forest future attraction in Putrajaya		
MediaTitle	The Star (Metro South and East)		
Date	07 Oct 2016	Color	Full Color
Section	News	Circulation	250,667
Page No	5	Readership	752,000
Language	English	ArticleSize	404 cm ²
Journalist	JADE CHAIM	AdValue	RM 5,648
Frequency	Daily	PR Value	RM 16,944



Bamboo forest future attraction in Putrajaya

Plans to have at least 600 plant species from various parts of the world

PUTRAJAYA

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PUTRAJAYA will soon have its own tropical bamboo forest or “*bambusetum*” located in Taman Botani, Precinct 1, within the administrative capital.

“The garden will occupy a 10 to 12ha site and is expected to be fully completed within three years,” said Putrajaya Corporation (PPj) president Datuk Seri Hasim Ismail.

“While Malaysia has about 70 species of bamboo (from peninsular Malaysia, Sabah and Sarawak), we hope to have about half the estimated 1,200 bamboo species worldwide in this garden.

“I hope the *bambusetum* will be a thriving garden and will be ready to host the International Conference on Bamboo within the next five years,” Hasim said during the pre-launch of the *bambusetum* organised by PPj

and the Malaysian Bamboo Society (MBS).

Present at the event were MBS president and Serom assemblyman Datuk Abdul Razak Minhat, Forest Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM) director-general **Datuk Dr Abd Latif Mohmod**, Malaysian Timber Industry Board representative Mahpar Atan and PPj Landscape and Park vice-president Baharuddin Aziz.

They also planted several bamboo plants of the *semantan*, *madu*, *aur*, *hitam* and *beting* variety at the event.

“The *bambusetum* is PPj’s initiative towards establishing a bamboo forest in the city. It is also our vision of making Putrajaya a sustainable city by 2020 and beyond,” said Hasim.

“We hope to add the bamboo forest to Putrajaya’s list of tourist

attractions. There are 10 existing public parks in Putrajaya, including Taman Botani, with three more parks in the pipeline.”

He added that there would also be a bamboo gallery at Taman Botani’s visitor information centre which will serve as a place to display, research, promote and market

bamboo-related products.

Hasim noted that bamboo is acknowledged as a sustainable building material and a product with great commercial value, in addition to being an important element in creating a balance between oxygen and carbon dioxide in the atmosphere.

Dr Abd Latif added that tropical bamboo is reputed to be the best in terms of strength and durability, but more research needed to be done in terms of the best harvesting methods.

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Hasim planting 'buluh payung' at the bambusetum which is expected to be completed within three years.