Pandas’ home in the works
Park sets aside 7ha to house and feed ‘treasures’ from China
the two countries.

The agreement for the transfer of the pandas, regarded as national treasures by China, will be signed between the Malaysian Government and the China Wildlife Conservation Association today.

The loan request was made by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak to his Chinese counterpart Wen Jiabao during his visit to Nanning in April.

Putrajaya Corporation president Tan Sri Samsudin Osman said the pandas ate 15 types of bamboo.

“We already have three here – buluh Thailand, buluh betong and buluh pagar,” he said after the soft launch of the Putrajaya Flower and Garden Festival (Floria) 2012 at the Maritime Centre here yesterday.

He added that FRIM director-general Datuk Dr Abd Latif Mohmod, who is a bamboo expert, will share planting tips with the corporation.

Samsudin said in Thailand (where China had also sent its pandas) the animals were fed “bamboo cakes” made of minced bamboo shoots.

“The food has to be kept in an air-conditioned store. Otherwise, the pandas will not eat them,” he said.

Federal Territories and Urban Wellbeing Minister Raja Nong Chik Raja Zainal Abidin, who was present at the event, said six experts from China were here to inspect the site for the pandas yesterday.

He said the enclosure, which has yet to be designed, will resemble the panda habitat as close as possible.

“We will propose the design to the Chinese authorities,” he said.

Raja Nong Chik added that a Malaysian team had visited Singapore and Chiang Mai in Thailand to get first-hand information on preparations as well as caring for the pandas.

The arrival date of the pandas has yet to be fixed.