

Asean-Korea Centre organises ecotourism workshop

| DANIAL NORJIDI |

TOURISM experts from Korea and the 10 Asean member states including Brunei Darussalam will gather in Seoul for the Asean-Korea Tourism Development Workshop on Ecotourism, which will be taking place today.

The Asean-Korea Centre, the event's organisers, announced this in a press release yesterday, sharing that the workshop carries the theme 'Wonders of Asean Ecotourism: Developing Ecotourism Cluster Packages', and will bring together 100 people from tourism-related government ministries, private sectors and academia.

The event, taking place at the Lotte Hotel in Seoul will feature keynotes addresses from Datuk Mas Ermieyati Samsudin, Deputy Minister of Tourism and Culture of Malaysia, as well as Souh Manivong, Director General of the Tourism Development Department, Ministry of Information, Culture and Tourism of Lao PDR.

A keynote presentation will also be delivered on 'Asean Strategic Plan 2016-2025: Ensuring Sustainable and Inclusive

Ecotourism Development of Asean' by Benito C Bengzon Jr, Chair of the Asean Sustainable and Inclusive Tourism Development Committee (ASITDC).

The participants of the workshop will discuss the topics of 'Asean Tourism Strategic Plan 2016-2025', 'Global and Asean Tourism Trends and Issues', 'Best Practices of Korea's Ecotourism Development', 'Best Practices for Asean Ecotourism Products and Packages Development' and 'Ecotourism Packages of Interest to Korean Market'.

The workshop will also feature country presentations on 'Best Practices and Issues: Asean Ecotourism Products and Packages Development' from the 10 Asean member states, including Brunei Darussalam.

In addition, in order to provide the Asean delegates with an opportunity to experience the ecotourism products in Korea, technical tours will be conducted to the Changdeok Palace on June 9 and DMZ Eco Peace Park as well as Durumi Peace Eco Village on June 10, respectively.

"The DMZ Eco Peace Park was recently transformed into an ecology peace park, boasting its beauty of untouched nature

as well as unique attractions along the world's tensest border of DMZ, a buffer zone between North and South Korea over six decades," reads the press release, which also notes that the Asean delegates will be the first foreign visitors to the park since it opened.

Durumi Peace Eco Village, meanwhile, is one of the well-developed ecotourism products, community-based tourism in particular, that enables various experiential activities such as making tofu, making rice cake, finding mines and security experiences in engagements with local community, it was shared.

Quoted in the press release is Kim Young-sun, Secretary General of the Asean-Korea Centre, who said, "Since the launch of the Asean Community in December 2015, one of the key priorities of the Asean Community is set as building connectivity.

"I believe that enhancing competitiveness of Asean as a single tourism destination as well as developing trans-border ecotourism cluster packages would contribute toward the Asean connectivity," he added. "I wish this workshop would serve as a useful avenue

to share knowledge, experiences and ideas on sustainable and ecotourism development in Asean."

In the press release, the Asean-Korea Centre shares, "In the course of achieving the Asean Community, ecotourism can be defined as the sustainable and inclusive tourism development that would contribute toward people-centred and sustainable development of Asean."

"The key substance includes the activities to identify, plan and sustainably develop an inter-connected network of ecotourism destinations and sites (ecotourism clusters) across the 10 Asean member states, which are linked to major overland roads, river systems, sea or air routes (tourism corridors)."

Asean plans to adopt the Pakse Declaration on Asean and Tourism Corridors on the occasion of the Asean Ecotourism Forum scheduled this month as well as the Asean Ecotourism Strategic Plan later this year.

The Asean-Korea Centre was established as an inter-governmental organisation with the aim to promote exchanges among Korea and the 10 Asean member states.



Dr Haji Norarfan bin Haji Zainal (R), Rector of UNISSA, giving contributions to a recipient



Dr Haji Norarfan with students taking part in the Ramadhan food drive in a group photo

UNISSA organises charitable programme for less fortunate

| AZLAN OTHMAN |

THE Universiti Islam Sultan Sharif Ali (UNISSA), through the Student Affairs Section and the Social Welfare and Promotion Unit of the Student's Council has organised a charitable programme known as the 'Ramadhan Food Drive' from June 3-5.

The Ramadhan Food Drive is the first project that was initiated by UNISSA in conjunction with the month of Ramadhan. It was carried out

through the contribution in the form of financial aid and food including rice, cooking oil, sugar and salt. The donations were handed over to 35 families comprising people with special needs and the less fortunate.

The project was successfully conducted with the support of Dr Haji Norarfan bin Haji Zainal, Rector of UNISSA, who also presented the contributions. The programme was also attended by senior officers of UNISSA and the Student Affairs Section.

Have you seen this man?

THE Royal Brunei Police Force is seeking public assistance in tracing 27-year-old Indonesian Muhammad Arif who has reportedly run away from his employer.

A police report was made at the Muara Police Station regarding the missing Indonesian man who is

holding a green identity card bearing the number 51-383563.

Anyone with information relevant to the case can contact the Officer-in-Charge of Muara Police Station at 2772253 or the police hotline 993.



RIGHT: Muhammad Arif

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