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Promoting eco-tourism

KOTA TINGGI: Plantation giant Kulim (M) Bhd is in the midst of expanding its two estates along the Johor River here to promote eco-tourism.

Its corporate affairs general manager Abdul Shukor Abdullah said that the Ladang Basir Ismail and Ladang Rem lands, with a combined area of about 500ha, had good potential for eco-tourism as they were located along 3km of the scenic river.

He said that the RM10mil expansion works started two months ago and was scheduled to complete as soon as possible to cater to more tourists and locals who enjoy being in harmony with nature.

He added that its Kulim Eco Trail Retreat, located within Ladang Basir Ismail here, some 22km from Ulu Tiram town, could currently accommodate up to 120 persons at one time.

"As part of the expansion plans, we want to be able to cater up to 200 persons at our clubhouse, which will offer activities like water rafting, paintball, banana farm tours and mountain biking activities," he said.

Abdul Shukor was speaking to the press after a visit by Johor Ruler Sultan Ibrahim Almarhum Sultan Iskandar to Ladang Basir Ismail for the Kulim Eco Boat Fishing Challenge.

He added that the retreat

Two estates along the scenic Johor River have been identified for the purpose

was also a popular spot among Singaporeans who were looking for a place to host organised group activities like bird watching, stand-up paddling, river raft-building, hill climbing, night walks and firefly cruise.

"We want to develop this place into a facility where we can also educate city dwellers on nature's wonders, like teaching them how to plant bananas and oil palm in the surrounding plantations," he said.

Abdul Shukor said that Johor Corp, through Kulim, wanted to take advantage of the beautiful location of the estates to offer such activities to the people, as eco-tourism is getting increasingly popular among domestic and foreign tourists.

He said that it was the second time the retreat played host to the function, with about 100 boats and 200 participants taking part in the fishing challenge, with up to RM20,000 in prizes up for grabs.



Royal presence: Ladang Kulim Montel Farm manager Omar Rohani (right) explaining about their products to Sultan Ibrahim during the ruler's visit to the Kulim Eco Boat Fishing Challenge.

- Photo by ABDUL RAHMAN EMBONG

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