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Celebrating Borneo's treasures



Khalid (in blue) and his wife Dr Zaitun Abu Bakar (in orange) checking out the booths at the International Borneo Fest 2019. — Photos by SHAARI CHE MAT/The Star

THE third consecutive International Borneo Fest 2019 showcased Borneo's diverse cultures to visitors.

Organised by Suria KLCC Sdn Bhd and Sabah and Sarawak Heritage Association of Kuala Lumpur and Selangor, the three-day event at Suria KLCC shopping mall was an eye-opener for local visitors as well as foreign tourists.

Federal Territories Minister Khalid Abdul Samad said the event highlighted Malaysia's diverse cultural attractions.

“The festival provides a glimpse into the diversity and culture of Sabah and Sarawak.

“To experience it best, one has to travel there to be able to truly immerse oneself in what Sabah and Sarawak have to offer.

“We should have more cultural fests like this in Kuala Lumpur to promote both states,” he said in his speech before launching the event. “The festival is in line with the government’s aim to foster unity among all Malaysians.

“We are also open to the proposal of a Borneo Street here in Kuala Lumpur,” said Khalid.



Penan natives showcasing their rattan weaving skills during the festival held at Suria KLCC.

The main highlights of the International Borneo Fest was the Borneo Designers Award and Miss and Mister Ambassador 2019.

This year, 12 Sabah and Sarawak-based designers showcased their exclusive collections where the best three designers would be given the opportunity to feature their collections at the final leg of the International Borneo Fest to be held in London by the end of this year.

Visitors also participated in the “sago worm” eating challenge, which was held for the first time.

There was also a basket weaving demonstration by the Penan, Borneo food and beverages on display as well as holiday promotions at the Sarawak Tourism booth.

Also present during the launch were Suria KLCC executive director and chief executive officer Andrew Brien, mall chairman Datuk Hashim Wahir and chief operating officer Francis Tan.



Visitors checking out the booths at the event which showcased the food and culture of Sabah and Sarawak.

(Source: <https://www.thestar.com.my/metro/metro-news/2019/06/19/celebrating-borneos-treasures/#3b7HVowH8YjtWUpr.99>)