



Experts to speak at tourism fair

LIKE last year's Malaysia Domestic Tourism Fair (MDTF), there will be speakers' sessions, with experts in the various tourism-related fields sharing their knowledge and interests with the audience this year.

Topics include some of the best places to get certain types of food, little-known war remnants in the country and famous places with feng shui features such as Genting Highlands and the Obong Fatm Tze mansion in Penang.

The talks will be held on May 15 at Putra World Trade Centre, Kuala Lumpur.

One of the speakers is Sager Ahmad, 54, a *New Straits Times* journalist who specialises in war history and aviation. During his mission titled *War Stories — The Tourism Factor*, Sager will share his knowledge of the war years and the emergency as well as present his rare collection of pictures connected to these subjects.

"I will touch on the historical sites of World War II especially those in Kuala Lumpur and Kelantan," says



Sager will share his stories and rare pictures about the World War II and the Emergency years

Sager. He adds he has a collection of 250,000 war pictures.

"I will be showing the rare pictures, says Sager whose credentials include setting up the War Museum in Port Dickson in 2006 as well as serving as a volunteer at the Royal Malaysian Air Force Museum at the Royal Malaysian Air Force base complex in Sungai Besi, Kuala Lumpur.

One rare picture is dated Jan 11, 1942, showing Japanese soldiers in

front of the MS Ally Pharmacy in Jalan Tun H.S. Lee in Kuala Lumpur.

He will also dwell on the locations of the Japanese soldiers' pleasure houses and their Kempetai headquarters.

Sager's penchant for war history has seen him travelling extensively to battle sites in the country, some of which are deep in the jungles. He also helped put together a collectible book titled *Malaysian Emergency Revisited, A pictorial History (1948-1960)* published by Warisan Publications in 2006.

Food writer Alice Yong, who authored *Not Just A Good Food Guide to KL*, published by Marshall Cavendish, will be talking on the topic *Eat's A Holiday*.

Yong became interested in food during her 13-year stint in the hotel industry. She blogs about food at www.jottmakan.blogspot.com.

Meanwhile, Rohizan Zainal, the president of Tourism Educators Association of Malaysia will speak on *The Potential Of Education Tourism in Malaysia*. He is the general manager and chief executive of KUB Hotel Singgahsana Petaling Jaya.

MDTF Speaker Sessions Date: May 15



11am-Noon: Capturing the Beauty of Destinations through Photography by Harry Woo Hong Sang, president of the Photographic Society of Malaysia.

Noon-1pm: War Stories — The Tourism Factor by Sager Ahmad, *New Straits Times* journalist.

1pm-2pm: Career Path as a Cabin Crew in Malaysia Airlines by Basir Shamsuddin, Malaysia Airlines In-flight Services Controller.

2pm-3pm: Feng Shui Places in Malaysia by feng shui master Ooi Wai Loon.

3pm-4pm: The Potential of Education Tourism in Malaysia by Rohizan Zainal, president of Tourism Educators Association of Malaysia.

4pm-5pm: Budget Travels — The Exciting Alternative by Nazaruddin Othman, Postscript managing director.

5pm-6pm: Eat's A Holiday by food writer Alice Yong.

6pm-7pm: An Expat's View of Travel in Malaysia by Marie Tseng who does voluntary work in museums in Malaysia.



MALAYSIA DOMESTIC TOURISM FAIR 2010 (May 14-16)
Putra World Trade Centre, Kuala Lumpur. Expect cheap deals, captivating hourly sessions on tourism and loads of prizes at this annual event. Details, call 03-2287 1830 or visit www.motour.com.my

MIRI INTERNATIONAL JAZZ FESTIVAL (May 14-15)
The Pavilion, Parkcity Everly Hotel, Miri, Sarawak. Be assured of a spell-binding time with the lineup of performers at this annual event. The festival will hit all the right notes with visitors, making it a must-go. Details, call 085-434 181 or visit www.miri-jazzfestival.com

COLOURS OF MALAYSIA (May 22)
Dataran Merdeka, Kuala Lumpur. This historical site comes alive with colour as this annual event

of song and dance makes an appearance. Details, call 03-2693 7111 or visit www.motour.gov.my

WESAK DAY (May 28)
Nationwide. Buddhist devotees flock to the temples to pay homage to Lord Buddha as the day marks both his birthday and his passing into Nirvana. At night, there will be processions in his honour taking place.

GAWAI DAYAK FESTIVAL (June 1-2)
Sarawak. This annual harvest festival is celebrated by all the state's 30 indigenous tribes, particularly the Iban and Bidayuh. Participants in traditional costumes make ceremonial offerings of various local traditional delicacies and tuak (home-made rice wine) to the gods of rice and prosperity. Details, call 082-423 600 or check out www.sarawaktourism.com