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The eighth edition of **Royal FLORIA Putrajaya**, the largest international flower and garden festival in the region bursts into bloom from **30 May to 7 June 2015** at its permanent grounds in **Anjung Floria, Precinct 4, Putrajaya, Malaysia**.

Themed '**Tapestry of Hues**', **Royal FLORIA Putrajaya 2015** promises an exhibition of the theme flower **Lily** and its family in specially designed gardens and exhibits. This enormous celebration of all things floral is a landmark event set to strengthen Putrajaya's vision to place the Administrative Capital as the world's first intelligent garden city, and is a popular fixture on the calendar of events for Malaysia.

Malaysia's very own international flower and garden festival hosted by **Perbadanan Putrajaya (PPJ)** with the cooperation of the **Ministry of Federal Territories and Tourism Malaysia** is augered to be a bigger and better one with various new components that is expected to bring in more local visitors and foreign tourists. Effective this year, Putrajaya Floria Sdn Bhd (PFSB) a wholly owned subsidiary of PjC will manage **Royal FLORIA Putrajaya**.

International participants are a big draw at FLORIA with more of them making an appearance each subsequent year. This year, we expect to better last year's record of 43 international participants from 23 nations by targeting 50 international participants namely floral designers and landscape architects who hail from Australia, Cambodia, Canada, China, Denmark, Ecuador, Hong Kong/Macau, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Korea, Malaysia, New Zealand, Netherlands, Oman, Philippines, Republic of Moldova, Singapore, Vietnam, Taiwan, Thailand dan United Kingdom.

The indoor and outdoor garden displays offer visitors an insight into the creativity and expertise of local and international landscape designers, with participants ranging from government agencies, corporate bodies, private sector, associations, growers, universities as well as secondary and primary schools.

As part of efforts undertaken to place Royal FLORIA Putrajaya as a destination on the international flower shows map, new components are offered to visitors and loyal followers of Royal FLORIA Putrajaya. Among them are the **Spring and Winter Gardens** that will provide a simulation of spring and winter gardens in Europe during those seasons, with actual snow fall. These gardens will provide a new experience to local visitors not only in terms of weather and temperature that is controlled with the use of technology, but also flowers like tulips and roses, making it the **first outdoor Spring and Winter Gardens in a flower show in Malaysia.**

The Floral Pavilion which has always been a focal point for visitors will present the all new Embassy Row. This display will be anchored by several Embassies representing their respective countries showcasing flowers from their countries in various variations, designs and creative compositions. We are happy to announce that the High Commission of Kenya has confirmed its participation and are confident many more will soon follow suit.

Special packages for visitors have also been introduced ie. the **Friendship Package** for Anjung Floria and **Floria Package** for Royal FLORIA Putrajaya 2015 marketed through travel agencies locally and internationally with the support of Tourism Malaysia who is assisting with promotional efforts for Royal FLORIA Putrajaya 2015.

As with each edition of Royal FLORIA Putrajaya, a number of awards are up for grabs. These include the **Royal FLORIA Putrajaya International Cup** for the winning design among international participants at the Floral Pavilion, **Royal FLORIA Putrajaya Garden Cup** for the overall winner of the outdoor garden showcase, **Royal FLORIA Putrajaya International Orchid Competition** and **Royal FLORIA Putrajaya International Designer Garden Award.**

Other highlights of Royal FLORIA Putrajaya 2015 are the Lily Garden, Royal Garden Designer Gardens, Tea Party Garden, Innovation Garden, Cats Garden, Kids Gardens and Floral Pavilion.

Other attractions include the Garden Bazaar and Horticultural Market that sells everything a gardener needs, from flowering plants to trees, garden furniture, garden equipment, biotech products and landscaping services.

More than 300 daily activities are held throughout the nine-day FLORIA Putrajaya that include floral arrangement demonstrations, gardening workshops, entertainment, photography competition, watercolour arts competition as well as arts and crafts.

As with each FLORIA Putrajaya, new attractions are constantly included to give added value to this annual event. This year, highlights include The Winter and Spring Gardens, Spa Garden, Pinwheel Garden, English Garden and Glamping Garden in sync with the theme for this year's garden showcase which is "Outdoor Lifestyles".

The China-Malaysia Friendship Garden, a Lingnan-styled garden is the first permanent component at Anjung Floria. Implemented as the first friendship garden in Putrajaya, this garden was developed in collaboration with the Malaysia-China Friendship Association and is now frequented by local and foreign visitors.

Other attractions that are developed as permanent components are the English Garden that offers visitors a taste of Europe in summer; Fantasy Garden complete with candy canes, cup cakes, mushrooms and toadstools; Heliconia Walk that pays tribute to the heliconia that is not often seen as an ornamental flower and the multi-coloured Pinwheel Garden with the quaint clock tower as its centrepiece.

Another attraction is FLORIA Flavours which is expected to be a big hit again this time, offering authentic cuisine from various states in Malaysia under one roof. Tantalize your taste buds with your favourite dishes from states like Malacca, Johor, Perak, Penang and Terangganu, among others.

FLORIA Arts & Crafts is a must-see and must-visit spot - an exhibition as well as more than 90 retail lots offering arts and crafts inspired by plants, landscape and nature with daily art and craft activities held at designated times at this pavilion.

The Schools and University Gardens Competition is an attraction not to be missed at FLORIA Putrajaya as students from Universities, Secondary and Primary Schools pit their creative ideas in building their very own gardens, imparting their very own design and implementation opportunities in “hands-on” creative garden building works, under close supervision of their respective teachers.

Now an annual event, FLORIA Putrajaya is always eagerly awaited by the public because of the unique beauty of the flora on display in attractively designed landscaped gardens, coupled with sparkling lights at night.

Promising a spectacular display at Anjung Floria along the Promenade in Precinct 4, Royal FLORIA Putrajaya is open to the public from 9am to 10.30pm (Monday to Thursday) and from 9am to 12 midnight (Friday to Sunday).

For more information pertaining to FLORIA Putrajaya, log on to www.floriaputrajaya.com.my



(HASLINDA KHALID)

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