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Captivated by the Pearl

BY KWATSAK CHUA



What are your top three favourite Chinese New Year snacks?

Members of the FAPA taking pictures of performers dressed in traditional attire during the opening of the congress in Fort Cornwallis.

MORE than 400 shutterbugs from 16 countries have converged in Penang, all with the same goal — to capture the state's unique beauty.

They will be in the state until Saturday in conjunction with the 24th congress of Federation of Asian Photographic Art (FAPA).

FAPA president Looi Toong Hong said the congress was a biennial event where members would gather to take beautiful pictures of the country they were in.

"The last time we gathered in Penang was 16 years ago," said Looi during the

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opening ceremony of the congress in Fort Cornwallis.

He said Penang had changed a lot since the last time they came here and first-time visitors should find the trip very exciting.

FAPA secretary-general Chow Chee Kong said one of the main objectives of the congress was to give the photographers a platform to foster a good rapport with each other.

"This is a good opportunity for them to discuss photography and share their ideas with each other," said Chow, who is from Taiwan.

Chow said although this was his fifth time coming to Penang, the place had never stopped to captivate him.

During the opening ceremony, the photo enthusiasts were given opportunities to snap pictures of a lion dance on stilts and chingay performances.

Among those present was 66-year-old Icharo Maeda from Osaka, Japan.

"It is a wonderful place to snap some photos," said Icharo, a third-time visitor.

"The scenery here is quite different from my country as it offers an array of culture and heritage to tourists."

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