

Eco-honour for Philea hotel



BLESSINGS: Hotel guests from the UK helped form the kolam while on holiday at the Philea resort

SPANNING over 15 acres, Philea Resort and Spa has been named the top "Eco-Friendly Hotel 2012" by Agoda.com, with Malaysia being one of the two countries that have more than one hotel in the latest top 10 list.

Wholly-owned by Majestic Hotels and Resorts Sdn Bhd and opened in June 2010, this five-star resort features many natural Malaysian resources — including 8,000 pieces of disused railway sleepers for fencing and staircases, more than 6,000 tonnes of marble from Perak as block fencing and specially planned and planted more than 3,000 trees within the resort to conserve and restore the natural resources. Also, recycled materials from shipwrecks used as furniture in the lobby.

Further, all detergents and cleaning products in use throughout the resort are certified biodegradable and eco-friendly as Philea embraces environmental initia-

tives as a basic for creating the resort, said marketing communications director Connie Chin in a statement.

"Hotels that once considered 'eco-friendly' to mean a small environmental footprint and conservation of resources are now taking things a step further, cleaning up trash, investing in best-practices, actually improving the sustainability of the communities that surround them," said Agoda.com chief executive officer Robert Rosenstein. "Whether in big cities or remote resort islands, our customers love these eco-friendly resorts."

Others in the list are hotels in Shanghai, Melbourne, Barcelona, New Delhi, Bangkok, Koh Samui and Vietnam.

And for Deepavali, Philea set up the decorative kolam artwork with coloured rice to welcome Lakshmi, the goddess of abundance and manifest beauty, to bestow her blessings upon guests at the resort.