

A Jawi Peranakan repast



Guests introduced to delicious dishes

AROUND 50 people from non-governmental organisations including foreign tourists, diplomats and food critics got a taste of Jawi Peranakan cuisine at a museum in Penang.

The Jawi Peranakan Food Tasting gathering was organised by Intersocietal and Scientific Sdn Bhd (INAS) together with the Academy of Socio-Economic Research and Analysis (Asera) and co-organised by Think City Sdn Bhd.

"After sampling the Jawi Peranakan dishes, guests were asked to comment on the food served," INAS executive director Prof Datuk Dr Wazir Jahan Karim said.

The food served at the Penang Islamic Museum on Armenian Street on Saturday was prepared by caterers and chefs who specialised in the cuisine.

Dr Wazir said she would be using the information obtained to publish a book entitled 'Culinary Heritage of the Malays and Straits Muslims of Northern Malaysia'.

"The book (partially funded by Think City) will feature the variety of food in Penang and will include their history, recipes and the way



Our culinary heritage: Chicken Briyani and Radiant Rice Cake are among the delicacies served at the Penang Islamic Museum.

they are prepared," she said.

She said her book would cover Jawi Peranakan food

which she claimed was special. "Jawi Peranakan food is not as creamy as Northern Indian food and less spicy compared to the food from Southern India.

"A lot of onions and tomatoes are used in

Jawi Peranakan food," she said.

Some of the dishes prepared for tasting were Chicken Briyani, Rainbow Rice (Nasi Hujan), Whole Chicken in Red Spicy Sauce (Ayam Golek) and Radiant Rice Cake (Kuih Seri Muka).

Think City's George Town Grants Programme director Dr Neil Khor Jin Keong said that Dr Wazir's proposal to publish the book

was approved, as it would help in the cultural mapping of the state.

Among the guests were the German ambassador Dr Guenter Gruber and his two sons as well as German town planner Alex Koenig.

Gruber's son Sebastian, 19, said he had a wonderful experience tasting the dishes although the food was a little spicy for him.



Thumbs up for Jawi Peranakan food: Dr Gruber (second right), his sons Sebastian (right) and Valentin and German delegate Dorothea Mund enjoying the dishes. With them is Dr Wazir.