

Lee Kong Chian Natural History Museum 250 guests get first look at family of dinosaurs

The stars of the Lee Kong Chian Natural History Museum in Clementi were unveiled yesterday when it welcomed its first group of guests.

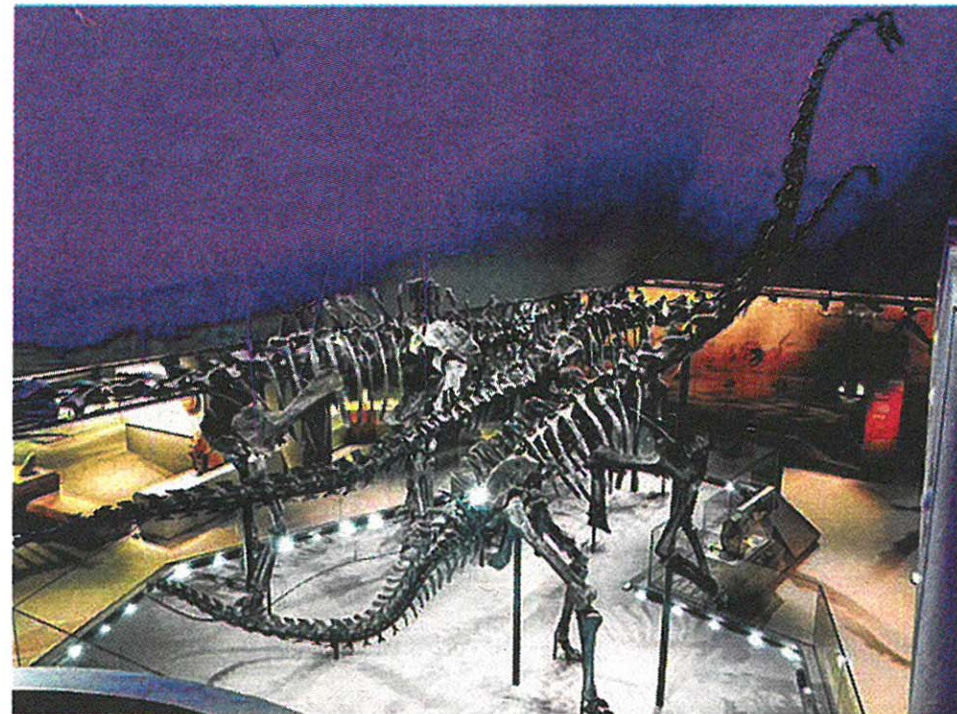
President Tony Tan Keng Yam, who was the guest-of-honour, and some 250 others, including experts from museums around the world, got to see the trio of dinosaur skeletons – Prince, Apollonia and Twinky – that will go on display when the museum opens to the public on April 28.

The skeletons, more than 80 per cent complete, were acquired from a US fossil company that found them between 2007 and 2010 in Ten Sleep, a town in Wyoming.

NARWHAL TUSK

The guests also toured the museum's biodiversity and heritage galleries to see artefacts such as a tusk from a marine mammal known as the narwhal, and vibrant displays of reptiles and plants.

They got a glimpse of the Asian Brown Flycatcher bird, one of the most prized possessions on show. It was collected by



STAR ATTRACTION:
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PHOTO: ST

British naturalist Alfred Russel Wallace, who is jointly credited, along with Charles Darwin, for the theory of evolution.

The museum will also house wet and dry research collections, and have classrooms and teaching labs.

The seven-storey building, with 8,500 sq m of space, is home to more than a million specimens from through-

out the region. Some of this collection, from the former Raffles Museum, dates back to 1849.

National University of Singapore professors Leo Tan and Peter Ng led efforts to build the new facility, and the latter heads it. The building fund came largely from the Lee Foundation, which gave \$25 million.