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## Actress Maya Karin picked as environs envoy

PETALING JAYA: The Natural Resources and Environment Ministry has appointed popular actress Maya Karin to promote awareness on the environment in conjunction with the International Coral Reef Year 2008.

Ministry secretary-general Datuk Suboh Mohd Yassin said that besides being a well-known actress Maya was also an avid swimmer and a diver.

He said she was an idol and could influence people in being more aware of the environment.

“With her as an ambassador, she will be part of every programme connected with maintaining the marine ecosystem, especially coral reefs,” he said after launching the International Coral Reef Year slogan “Our Reef, Our Heritage, Our Responsibility” at a shopping mall in Bandar Utama here yesterday.

Suboh said that apart from climatic effects, humans also contributed to the destruction of coral reefs through activities such as destructive methods of fishing, excessive development and excessive tourism.

Maya, who was present at the event, said she was one of the cast members of the film *Duyong*, which highlighted environmental issues.

“There is a lot of talk about being friendly to the environment but the question is how serious or committed are we?” she said, adding that as a nature lover she was confident of playing her role in the programmes carried out by the ministry.

Available online:

<http://thestar.com.my/news/story.asp?file=/2008/2/24/nation/20431350&sec=nation>  
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