

# Bird's nest option finds favour

**PRESS DIGEST**

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**I**F diners find a recent suggestion by Datuk Seri Liow Tiong Lai palatable, they will soon be slurping bird's nest soup instead of shark fin soup at restaurants.

In the wake of reports that stocks of bird's nest are piling up at warehouses because China, the main importer, has stopped its import in the past nine months, the health minister had suggested that Malaysians holding dinner receptions should consider replacing shark fin soup with a bird's nest dish.

According to a report in *Nanyang Siang Pau* yesterday, Selangor and Federal Territory Ku Su Shin Choong Hung Restaurant Association president Lum Tuck Loy has given his thumbs up to Liow's suggestion, but said whether the suggestion becomes a reality depends on consumers.

Lum said restaurateurs can always adjust their menu. "More than 10 years ago, bird's nest was on the menu of wedding receptions at our restaurants," he said.

He said many people order top dishes such as shark fin soup and roasted suckling pig as they are more presentable. However, Lum said not all shark fin soups or bird's nest dishes are equal, as the prices differ widely based on the quality of the raw materials.

Federation of Bird's Nest Merchants Associations president Datuk Beh Heng Seong said the once pricey bird's nest should have become affordable to most diners now that prices of raw bird's nest had dropped.