

Malaysia to emulate Thai fishing industry: Dr M

NEW ERA WITH TUNA VENTURE

NSunT 20 SEP 1987

KUANTAN, Sat. — Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and his Thai counterpart, General Tun Prem Tinsulanonda, today described the launching of the joint deep-sea fishing project as heralding a new era in the fishing industries of the two countries.

They hoped that the co-operation would further enhance the cordial relations between the two countries.

The two Prime Ministers jointly launched the deep-sea tuna exploration venture at the Kuantan Port ferry wharf, some 24km from here.

The project is handled by a Malaysian company, K & I Industries, which

By SHARIFAH ROZITA

has purchased 40 Thai trawlers. The trawlers will be manned by both Thais and Malaysians, who would undergo training in deep sea fishing.

Dr Mahathir told the Thais that their "highly developed fishing industry has been a source of inspiration to Malaysians".

"We are now in a position to emulate your development and progress in the industry. In this regard, it is hoped that this co-operation between Thai and Malaysian fishermen will pave the way for more co-operation in the fishing sector."

More Malaysians are being encouraged to go into deep-sea fishing in a big way and the co-operation between the private sectors of both nations — exemplified by the joint venture launched today — was the first step towards this end.

Dr Mahathir said the project would not only benefit Malaysia in its effort to exploit its Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), it would also help increase the supply of tuna for the Thai canneries.

Thailand is currently a major exporter of canned tuna — a feat it has achieved without the benefit of its own

★ TURN TO P2, COL 3

Time for new attitude to fishing

★ FROM PAGE ONE
NSW 20 SEP 1987

tuna resources.

The Malaysian tuna catch at the moment was much smaller than could actually be had; the methods used by local fishermen also left much to be desired, said Dr Mahathir.

He said Malaysians had been too "land-ward" in their approach to development and had hesitated for too long over going into the fishing industry.

It was time they changed this attitude because further hesitation would only result in losses to the nation.

He said there was no reason why Malaysian entrepreneurs could not do the same as their neighbours in building bigger boats and going out further into the sea. All they needed was courage and the determination to succeed.

In his speech, Gen Tun Prem described the joint venture as a "new era" of neighbourly co-operation.

"This truly reflects the relationship between Thailand and Malaysia which has always been close and cordial. We always treat each other as close friends... We share so much in ideals, outlook and purpose."

The Thai Premier said both nations were situated on the land mass of Suwannabhumi, or golden peninsula, "from which our peoples have always enjoyed the abundance of wealth and resources".

This had been possible due to the mutually beneficial sharing based on "principles of fairness, reciprocity and understanding".

Gen Tun Prem reminded his countrymen involved in the joint project that they were the representatives of the Thai fishermen with the duty "to promote and expand co-operation and understanding" between Malaysia and Thailand.

He urged them therefore to perform their duties diligently and with integrity because the success of the project rested in their hands.

Both Prime Ministers later released a cluster of balloons to symbolise the launching of the venture.

The 40 yellow trawlers assembled at the wharf then sailed past the official rostrum. Dr Mahathir and Gen Tun Prem also visited one of the boats for a closer look at the equipment on board.

Gen Tun Prem and his delegation returned to Bangkok from the Kuantan RMAF base this afternoon.