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Mahathir-LIMA

LIMA '93 ATTRACTS PARTICIPATION FROM 30 COUNTRIES

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LANGKAWI, July 31 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad is satisfied with the preparations for the Langkawi Maritime and Aerospace Exhibition (LIMA) '93 with almost 400 companies from 30 countries confirming their participation.

Based on the response, this year's exhibition would be bigger than that of 1991 which saw participation from 14 countries, he told reporters after being briefed on preparations for the December event by the organisers, Le Proton LIMA Sdn Bhd as well as government agencies and departments involved at Sheraton Langkawi Resort here today.

He said another temporary air-conditioned hall would be built to meet the need for additional exhibition space as the main hall would be inadequate to meet this year's number of exhibitors.

Present at the briefing were Defence Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak, Kedah Menteri Besar Tan Sri Haji Osman Aroff and Le Proton LIMA chairman Datuk Radzi Manan.

Among the special events of LIMA '93 would be a conference for passengers on long-haul commercial flights, and airlines and airport.

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Dr Mahathir would present a keynote address at the conference.

Asked whether the temporary exhibition hall could be completed by September, Dr Mahathir said he was confident that company concerned could do it considering its reputation was at stake.

"I'm confident it can be completed because it's the same company which had completed the 300-room hotel for the LIMA '91 in 52 days," he said.

On LIMA's ranking to other international airshows, he said it had been accepted as an international airshow and had also been included in the calendar of such international event.

According to LIMA '93 News, a publication of the organisers, 303 companies had written in as at July 21 to participate in the exhibition while covered exhibition area taken up totalled 6,550 sq metres. All the 15 chalets, aircraft aprons and the marina for the boat exhibition had been fully booked. --more

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Among the leading aerospace and maritime companies which will participate in this year's exhibition are Aerospatiale, Airbus Industrie, General Dynamics, Brooks Yatchs, Asmar Shipbuilding & Docking, Pilatus Aircraft, McDonnell Douglas and Lockheed.

Three other companies/groups have also confirmed their participation in static and flying displays while the maritime exhibition would involve 50 boats. Among the aircraft on display will be ATR, Beechcraft, Chinook helicopters and McDonnell Douglas' F/A-18.

Asked on visit of PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat, he said Malaysia was informed of the peace process negotiation where many of its conditions were acceptable to the Palestinians but not to the United States and Israel, causing no progress in the negotiation.

Malaysia would give more support to the Palestinians in their struggles, he said.

Dr Mahathir, who arrived here this morning for a one day visit, also toured a LIMA '93 souvenir shop operated by Nona Marketing Sdn Bhd at the airport's terminal. It sells T-shirts, pens, cigarette lighters, umbrellas, key-holders and caps. --Bernama

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