

Langkawi maritime-aerospace show draws

Bigger Lima this

Year

326 companies

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LANGKAWI, Sat. — A total of 326 leading international aerospace and maritime companies from 30 countries have confirmed participation in the Langkawi International Maritime and Aerospace exhibition this year, making it much bigger than the one held in 1991, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

The Prime Minister said companies from only 14 countries took part during Lima '91.

"Lima is now internationally recognised and has been included in the world calendar of aerospace and maritime exhibitions," Dr Mahathir said. By the time the exhibition begins in December, the organisers expect to have close to 400 companies participating.

Dr Mahathir was speaking to reporters after a closed-door briefing on the preparations for Lima '93.

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Also present at the briefing held at the Sheraton Langkawi Resort were Menteri Besar Tan Sri Osman Aroff, Defence Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak, Defence Ministry secretary-general Datuk Kamaruzaman Sharif and State Executive Councillors.

The briefing was given by officials of the Defence Ministry and Lima organisers, Le Proton LIMA Sdn Bhd and Debis Marketing Services Sdn Bhd.

Among the leading international aerospace and maritime companies which will take part in Lima '93 are Aerospatiale which will exhibit its TBN 700 aircraft, Boeing Helicopter (Chinook), British Aerospace (BAe 125, J-41 and J-61), Eagle Aircraft (XTS), McDonnell Douglas (F/A 18) and the Russian team which will bring in 12 aircraft including MiG-29s.

On the maritime front, 50

vessels will be on display. Canada and France will be sending two frigates each while the United Kingdom will send a frigate and a destroyer.

Dr Mahathir said he was satisfied with the facilities for the exhibition.

He was confident that the Lima exhibition centre which is now under construction would be ready in time.

"The contractor has a good track record. They built the first 300 rooms of DeLima Resort in just 52 days."

The exhibition centre is being built by Woodhouse Sdn Bhd and is expected to be completed in September.

Dr Mahathir said all the space at the exhibition hall had been taken up.

The demand had been so good that more display areas would be created within the airport by building makeshift tents and chalets for the exhibitors.

Dr Mahathir said a conference on airports and financial viability of long-haul aircraft for airlines would be held during the exhibition.

The Prime Minister will deliver a keynote address at the opening of the conference.

Earlier, Dr Mahathir visited a souvenir booth at the Langkawi International Airport set up by Nona Marketing Sdn Bhd, the official contractor for the supply of souvenir and gift items for Lima '93.

He then proceeded to the airport tower to have an aerial view of the exhibition area and later visited the exhibition centre.

After the briefing, Dr Mahathir flew in a helicopter to Kuala Kedah where he visited the construction site of the coastal town's floating cargo jetty.

Dr Mahathir was briefed on the project's progress by Bridgecon Sdn Bhd project engineer Teoh Poh Yeong. Bridgecon is undertaking the RM5 million project for Berjaya Corporation.

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