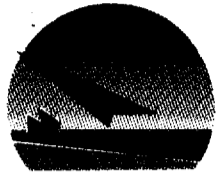


Country has the work ethics and skills to

PM: Malaysia

① - 8 DEC 1993



LIMA '93
MALAYSIA

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LANGKAWI, Tues. — Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today Malaysia is stepping into the aerospace industry, starting with the manufacture of light aircraft, not just because the country has built up a solid high-technology and engineering capability, but also because it has the necessary work ethics and skills.

The Prime Minister said by embarking on aircraft manufacturing, Malaysia was entering a new area in technology where very stringent quality control was the norm.

Speaking at the opening of Lima '93 at the Langkawi International Airport, Dr Mahathir said the aerospace industry demanded that the Malaysian workforce be extremely conscious of quality in the manufacturing process.

In addition to the all-composite Eagle X-TS and Datwyler MD3-160 aircraft projects which had already been announced, the Prime Minister revealed that a consortium of Malaysian and German companies would establish a joint venture to make the revolutionary German-designed Dornier Seastar CD2 aircraft in Penang.

The production of the twin-engined 14-seater amphibious composite aircraft is scheduled to begin next year.

He said: "These are undoubtedly small beginnings. But even the United States entered the aerospace industry with the Kitty Hawk, an aircraft that is more primitive than the three I have mentioned.

"In a century's time, God willing, we may have our own counterparts to Boeing and McDonnell Douglas. But a beginning has to be made and the three small aircraft make a good beginning, modest though they may be."

He said the Malaysian economy had moved away from its traditional reliance on the export of raw materials to the export of manufactured goods with the emphasis shifting from labour-intensive to capital and technology-intensive products.

"With this solid hi-tech and engineering background, Malaysia is proud to step into the aerospace industry," he said.

Dr Mahathir said Aerospace Industries of Malaysia

(AIM) was leading the consortium to manufacture the Seastar entirely, which he described as having enormous market potential in the Asia-Pacific region.

He said the aircraft was useful for maritime patrols, search and rescue and transportation to lake and island resorts.

He said the Swiss-designed Datwyler MD3-160 two-seater aerobatic and trainer aircraft to be manufactured by SME Aerospace would take the skies before the end of the year.

"There is a demand for this category of aircraft worldwide and SME Aerospace hopes to secure a market niche," the Prime Minister said.

On Malaysia's participation in the Eagle X-TS project, Dr Mahathir said it was one of the bold steps the country was taking into the world of composite technology.

He said the participation of Composite Technology Research Malaysia (CTRM) in the production of the light all-composite aircraft, through a partnership with an Australian company, was a breakthrough for Malaysia.

Dr Mahathir said Malaysia had taken over the company on May 28 this year and the first production model of the Eagle rolled out of the Australian facility in October.

"Eagle Aircraft (Malaysia) Sdn Bhd has also secured firm orders for six aircraft from its customer, the Conservation and Land Management Authority of Western Australia," he said.

"Plans are now in hand to manufacture the Eagle X-TS aircraft entirely in Malaysia."

Dr Mahathir said in conjunction with the country's efforts to promote composite product manufacturing

in Malaysia, the Government had approved a composite manufacturing zone (CMZ) in Malacca.

The CMZ would house an aerospace industries centre with Eagle Aircraft taking the lead, a non-aerospace products manufacturing centre with Talon Malaysia as a key tenant manufacturing from composite materials and an advanced composite laboratory to provide research back-up for companies located in the CMZ.

Malaysia was looking forward to having more compa-

nies, both local and foreign, to join the CMZ.

It was also developing its own maritime industries.

"We have already built freighters and ferry boats. The naval dockyard at Lumut, which was corporatised two years ago, will be a new entrant into the shipbuilding industry," Dr Mahathir said.

It would be involved in the construction of patrol vessels for the Royal Malaysian Navy in collaboration with foreign shipbuilding companies.

can do it

enter aerospace industry

Local industries engaged in the manufacture and supply of shipboard equipment and systems would be able to participate and benefit from the transfer of its technology.

"The Ministry of International Trade and Industry will spearhead a vendor development programme for small and medium-scale industries to support the patrol vessel project, just as it did for the national car project."

On the potential in the construction of pleasure

craft, Dr Mahathir said during Lima '91, almost all the pleasure boats exhibited were sold by the end of the exhibition.

"The growing affluence of Malaysia and its neighbours will undoubtedly create a demand for such craft.

"I would like to urge local and foreign entrepreneurs to look into the possibility of developing Malaysia as the regional centre for the production of such craft.

"With more such craft in local waters there will be an increasing need for marinas

and boat maintenance facilities."

Dr Mahathir said to meet the demand of industrialisation and new technologies, changes would be made to the education policy and new courses would be offered by institutions of higher learning, government and private sectors.

On Lima, the Prime Minister said it was not another aerospace or maritime show.

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PM: Malaysia must not be left behind

FROM PAGE ONE

"It is true that almost every country in Asia now holds such exhibitions. But Lima is still relevant and special because it is held in a region with the fastest growing economy.

"People in this region are now more affluent and are not only travelling more but are actually beginning to regard ownership of private jets and luxury boats as essential for business and for pleasure."

Dr Mahathir said the series of Lima exhibitions to

be staged were also aimed at challenging Malaysians to respond and be pro-active to the demands of a technology-driven world.

"Malaysia cannot afford to be left behind. In a competitive world there can be no complacency. Alertness and a willingness to venture into new fields are the prerequisites of merely staying abreast," he said.

Earlier, Dr Mahathir and Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohamed Ali were given a colourful welcoming ceremony at the Mahsuri International Exhibition Centre.

They were met on arrival by Defence Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak, Transport Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik, Defence Ministry secretary-general Datuk Kamaruzaman Shariff and other dignitaries.

The Prime Minister and his wife were led to the conference hall ballroom, accompanied by traditional musicians and cultural dancers from the Kedah State cultural troupe.

The red carpeted walkway was also lined with huge vases, resembling the

rebana ubi and the *bunga manggar*.

A mock-up jet fighter, bearing registration number V2020, reflecting Vision 2020, when Malaysia intends to achieve developed nation status, provided a backdrop for the stage.

At the end of his speech, Dr Mahathir stepped into the "cockpit" of the mock-up jet and pressed a switch, and Lima '93 took off to the sound of a jet fighter taking off, followed by fireworks showering the stage as the national flag and the Lima '93 logo were unfurled.