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NZ MARINE EXPORTS TO MALAYSIA TO INCREASE BY 30 PCT NEXT YEAR

KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 12 (Bernama) -- New Zealand's marine exports to Malaysia were expected to rise between 25 and 30 percent by the end of 1997 from an estimated RM60 million this year, the New Zealand trade commissioner to Malaysia Barbara Kohler said today.

The exports included boats, accessories and refits, she told reporters after the Marine Export Group of New Zealand (Marex) gave a presentation here.

New Zealand's marine exports worldwide totalled RM258 million.

Kohler said Malaysia's marine industry was booming given its lengthy coastline which offered ideal cruising grounds.

Malaysia had the potential to become a leader in the marine industry in the region by offering various marine products and keeping ahead of its competitors, she added.

The presentation today was given by eight marine-based companies from New Zealand seeking joint collaboration with Malaysian firms following the success of some of their counterparts who visited Malaysia earlier.

Three Memoranda of Understanding (MoU) were signed for the supply of ships to Malaysia during the Prime Minister Datuk Seri Mahathir Mohamad's visit to New Zealand in March, Kohler said.

The current mission, organised by the New Zealand Trade Development Board (TRADENZ), arrived here yesterday for a four-day visit. It is also scheduled to visit Pulau Pinang, Sabah and Sarawak. -- BERNAMA

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