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Mahathir-Airport

PM WANTS AIRPORT OWNERS TO STRIVE FOR BETTER SYSTEMS

LANGKAWI, July 24 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad has said airport owners and operators need to strive to provide the most efficient, convenient and user-friendly airports systems.

He said this was because airports were a crucial link in the global travel chain.

"As airports users become more discerning and demanding, it is imperative that airport owners and operators particularly in an increasingly competitive environment strive to provide the best system."

Dr Mahathir said this in his message in the souvenir programme of the inaugural Langkawi International Airport Technology and Ground Support Exhibition (AIRPORTEX '96).

The four-day exhibition will begin tomorrow at the Mahsuri International Exhibition Centre (MIEC) in Padang Matsirat.

The Prime Minister said the exhibition of such nature featuring the latest technology in airport development, systems and operations was most timely.

This, according to him was because the aviation world, particularly the Asia-Pacific region had witnessed a burgeoning phase of major airport construction.

"Malaysia is once again proud to be the venue of yet another international exhibition which reflects the country's avowed aim to stay abreast of the latest technology the world has to offer not only in aviation and aerospace but in other spheres of economic development," he said.

Dr Mahathir said the exhibition would also afford opportunities for interaction between airport owners, operators and purveyors of the latest technology in airport operations and systems.

"It will also enable industry professionals and experts to exchange views and ideas and share their experiences," he said.

Meanwhile, Transport Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik in his message said the aerospace industry was one of the key areas in the country.

He said Malaysia was committed to staking a claim to its share of the international aerospace market.

"Although high risk and capital intensive in nature, the aerospace sector offers a myriad of opportunities for transfer of advanced technologies in areas like electronics, engineering and composite materials," he said.

Dr Ling said with countries in the region in the throes of mega airport development projects, it was indeed an exciting and challenging phase for airport technology.

"Countries are fully cognizant of the critical importance of airports in national economic development and this will undoubtedly generate an interest and demand for the latest airport technology and operation systems," he said.

A total of 110 companies from 17 countries are participating in the exhibition and host nation, Malaysia is represented by 57 companies. Other major participants are Germany and Britain which are represented by 13 companies each.

A two-day international conference on airport will also be held during the exhibition, the first in this region. -- BERNAMA

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