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Aircraft enthusiast eyes world record

LANGKAWI, Sun. - A radio-controlled model plane enthusiast who set a Malaysian record last Sunday plans to break the world record for channel crossing during the Langkawi International Maritime and Aerospace Exhibition 1997 (Lima '97) to be held here in December.

Mahamad Yusuf Hassan, 51, set a record for channel crossing from Pulau Pinang to Pulau Bidan with a distance of 37km in one hour and eight minutes non-stop last Sunday.

But he failed in his attempt to set the world record for channel crossing from Pulau Pinang to Langkawi - covering a distance of 90km - that same day.

Mahamad Yusuf, the executive chairman of MYHH Hobby Centre, a distributor of aeromodelling planes in the country, said he would pilot the model aircraft from a helicopter from the Bayan Lepas International Airport in Pulau Pinang to the Mahsuri International Exhibition Centre here, the venue for Lima '97.

The model aircraft is timed to arrive when Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad officially opens Lima '97.

Should he achieve the feat, Mahamad Yusuf will be the first Malaysian to set a world record, which is currently the 17km English Channel crossing, for a distance of more than 100km using a radio-controlled model plane.

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