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Exhibitors impressed by scale and scope

y; Hayati Hayatudin

EXHIBITORS in the Maritime Division of the Langkawi International Maritime and Aerospace exhibition (Lima '97) are generally impressed with the scale and organisation of this year's event.

Some of those interviewed praised the attention and support to the maritime component given by the country's leaders.

RDM Submarines b.v. contracts and sales general manager John Tiefel even rated the show as the best he had ever attended in Asia.

"Everything has gone very smoothly, from the infrastructure to the organisation of the exhibition," he said.

This is the first time the Netherlands-based submarine manufacturer is participating in Lima.

Tiefel said the company would have definitely showcased a submarine belonging to the Royal Netherlands Navy if it had known the show would be so well organised.

"For the next Lima, we will try to have a submarine on display," he said.

Naval Team Denmark managing director Captain Erik Rode said he was very impressed with the number of high ranking delegates who visited the show.

"Even the Malaysian King and Sultans came to support the show besides the Prime Minister (Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad) and Defence Minister Datuk Seri Syed Hamid Albar," he said.

"In other maritime shows, usually only the Defence Ministers are around."

Malaysia Shipyard and Engineering Sdn Bhd corporate communications executive Ibrahim Hassan described the move to organise separately the maritime component of Lima '97 as a good decision.

He said the exhibition in the Maritime Division was comprehensive, with a high number of companies taking part.

Tractors Malaysia's power systems division marine sales manager Najib Yusof agreed that this year's maritime division was better than in 1995.

However, improvements could be made, like allocating more parking lots.

"As it is, some exhibitors have to park their vehicles by the roadside."

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