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Forty nations for Lacos '97

ABOUT 600 shooters from 40 countries are expected to compete in the 2nd Commonwealth Shooting Federation Championships (Lacos '97) at the Langkawi International Shooting Range on Nov 18-28.

The biennial championships are being jointly organised by Lacos '97 Sdn Bhd and the National Shooting Association of Malaysia (NSAM).

Organising chairman Abdul Rahman Ariffin, who is also Kedah's Culture, Arts and Tourism Executive Councillor, said yesterday that so far 374 shooters from 22 member nations have confirmed participation.

Rahman said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad is expected to officiate Lacos.

NSAM secretary Ong Hoon Chin said Lacos will host 10 events for men and five for women - the same number as in '98 Games.

Ong said there should be no problems with the new range which has got the thumbs up from the International Shooting Union (ISU) who have described it as one of the most modern shooting venues in the world. - K. BALA

* THE International Shooting Federation (ISF) have offered Malaysia the job of hosting the World Championships in 1999.

National Shooting Association of Malaysia (NSAM) secretary Ong Hoon Chin said after the Commonwealth countries shooting competition Organising Committee meeting the offer was made based on the facilities available in Malaysia.

The meeting was chaired by Kedah Sports Development Committee chairman Abdul Rahman Ariffin.

The RM80m Langkawi International range, which is among the most sophisticated shooting facilities in the world, is recognised by the ISF.

He said Japan and South Korea were the two Asian countries which had staged the World Shooting Championship so far.

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