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LIMA-Success

LIMA `97 A SUCCESS, SAYS MAHATHIR

LANGKAWI, Dec 7 (Bernama) -- The Langkawi International Maritime and Aerospace Exhibition (LIMA `97) is a success, Prime Minister Dr Mahathir Mohamad said at the conclusion of the sixth-day biennial event here.

He said LIMA `97 was successful despite the country's economic problems because it has "got nothing to do with the economic situation".

"Companies participating in LIMA `97 are not suffering from the economic situation, except some Malaysian companies," he told a news conference.

In fact, 60 per cent of 950 exhibitors from the aerospace and maritime industries which were present this year had verbally confirmed their participation for next LIMA in 1999.

"It is expected that the next LIMA would be bigger and more attractive compared to LIMA '97," he said.

For the first time, the maritime show was held at Tanjung Malai, separately from the aerospace show at the Mahsuri International Exhibition Centre (MIEC), to serve the industries better.

LIMA '97 is the fourth in the series. In the first LIMA in 1991, only 98 participants from 14 countries displayed their products and services in a tented area of 2,500 square metres.

In 1993, 375 exhibitors from 30 countries occupied 6,700 square metres of space in the newly built MIEC and the Kuah jetty, while LIMA '97 had 642 exhibitors from 35 countries occupying 10,000 square metres of space at the MIEC and Port Langkasuka.

The LIMA '97 attracted 950 exhibitors from 40 countries who occupied 23,000sq metres of the MIEC and Tanjung Malai.

Le Proton was the organiser for the aerospace and maritime shows for all the past LIMA series.

As for the LIMA '97 the maritime segment was handled by Huswah Exhibition Sdn Bhd.

LIMA has been ranked the world's fourth largest airshow after Farnborough, Paris and Dubai.

Le Proton Sdn Bhd Executive Chairman Datuk Radzi Manan said LIMA was arguably the largest in terms of the number of exhibitors, exhibition space, trade visitors and agreements as well as memorandums of understanding signed.

Dr Mahathir forecast a very bright future for the country's aerospace industry as LIMA had paved the way for the country's serious involvement in the construction of aircraft and components.

He said a total of 21,000 trade visitors attended this year's LIMA. --
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