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World-Record

RADIO-CONTROLLED AIRCRAFT ENTHUSIAST PLANS TO SET A WORLD RECORD

LANGKAWI, Aug 10 (Bernama) -- 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.

Haji 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.

However, he failed in his attempt to set the world record for channel crossing from Pulau Pinang to Langkawi with a distance of 90km the 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.

During his last attempt, Mahamad Yusuf set off in a speedboat but the drag winds and the boat's slow speed hampered his efforts to reach Dataran Lang here after refuelling his model plane at Pulau Payar.

"I will make another attempt to break the record because I want to prove that Malaysia Boleh", he said.

He will be using the same model used by Giichi Naruke, world champion of the Aerobatic Flying World Championship 1995, with an engine capacity of 86cc.

He claimed that during his earlier attempts, including last week, he had detected several interruptions by certain groups using the same frequency of 40.850 mega hertz and had had to change the venue and time.--
BERNAMA

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