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Marine technology lab a boon to local shipbuilders

JOHOR BARU, Sun. - The Marine Technology Laboratory, launched by Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad yesterday, is the only maritime research centre in the country with "towing tank test" for ship models.

Although "towing tank test" may not mean much to many, it is essential for local ship makers for testing a scaled model of a ship in a towing tank before the actual ship is built.

Malaysian Shipyard and Engineering (MSE) chief executive officer Abdul Rahim Abdul Rahman who commended the university for setting up the centre said, the laboratory had created a win-win situation for its students and the local maritime industry.

He said the laboratory had allowed ship makers like MSE to carry out simulations on the scaled models to study how the actual ship would perform in the open sea.

"For instance, we are now able to test the hull shape of a ship design locally in the towing tank once the model is designed."

Prior to having this laboratory, shipbuilders who required towing tank tests had to use facilities in Japan and Europe.

MSE used to send their models to be tested in Europe. Now they are sending them to the local laboratory.

This not only saves cost but also enables direct involvement in the simulation.

MSE has so far completed two such tests, namely tanker water resistance test and double hull tanker resistance test.

It is now working on double hull tanker propulsion test.

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