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Russia to put largest ever equipment on display

KUALA LUMPUR, Sun. - Russia will make its presence felt at the Langkawi International Maritime and Aerospace '99 exhibition by displaying its largest ever equipment at any overseas exhibition.

The exhibits will not only include jet fighters, main battle tanks, air defence systems and other military equipment, but also prototypes and new-generation ones.

To prove their point, the Russians will bring along more than 500 top-ranking officers, including 200 specialists, to ensure effective communication with interested parties and Malaysian agencies.

Rosvoorouzhnie's chief representative in Malaysia, Col Victor N. Kladov, said that Russia considered Lima '99 as a closing chapter to the 20th century, and to welcome the new millennium.

Rosvoorouzhnie, the State Corporation for Export and Import of Armaments and Military Equipment, will be one of the main co-ordinators for Russia's participation in Langkawi.

Malaysia is one of the developing nations which is keen on acquiring new-generation equipment for the 21st century from Russia.

"We are fully aware of Dr Mahathir's (Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad) Vision 2020 (to make Malaysia a fully-developed country by the year 2020)," Kladov said.

Russia's large turnout follows the tremendous interest shown by the Malaysian Government in acquiring Russian technology in the aerospace and defence sectors.

Dr Mahathir had led a delegation of businessmen and corporate bigwigs to several parts of Russia in August and September.

Among the areas visited by the delegation were the Russian territory of Khabarovsk, the Irkutsk autonomous region and the Republic of Buryatia.

Khabarovsk has its shipbuilding yard while Ulan Ude, the capital of Buryatia, boasts of an aviation plant which manufactures helicopters and fighter jets. Another plant at Komsomolsk-on-Amur manufactures the Sukhoi jets.

"Whatever Dr Mahathir saw during his tour in Russia will be brought over to Langkawi as he had made it clear that Malaysia was very keen in acquiring our products," Kladov said.

The Russians will hold aerial displays of the Su-25YBK and Su-39UBK jet fighters, the Mi-8AMTSh and Mi-17IB helicopters all manufactured at the Ulan Ude aviation plant.

Among other static exhibits by Russian companies will be the new-generation defence equipment like the SMERCH multi-launch rocket system and the SPR-2 jamming station, while the jet fighters will be the MiG-29SMT, MiG-29UBT, Su-27, Su-30K, Su-25UB and Su-39, and the Mi-8AMTSh helicopter.

Meanwhile, Anjung Mustika Sdn Bhd's executive director, Muphilind Mustapha, said that several Russian booths would display the amphibian variants of the Lake Aircraft and the Seawolf.

Anjung Mustika is the local agent for several Russian manufacturers, including Komsomolsk-on-Amur Aircraft Production Association.

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