

Expedition to promote Sea Games flagged off

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KUALA LUMPUR, Sat. The Asean Voyage of Friendship Expedition, held in conjunction with the 21st Kuala Lumpur Sea Games, was flagged off by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today.

Among the objectives of the expedition are to instil the volunteerism spirit among Malaysians, promote Malaysian-made aircraft and generate publicity for the Sea Games to be held from Sept 8 to 17.

The expedition, until Aug 31, features two experimental Zodiac aircraft and also a MD3.

The participants include 16 junior trainee pilots, eight professional pilots, two engineers, technicians, medical personnel, logistics personnel and youths

from Rakan Muda Air Recreation programme conducted by the Youth and Sports Ministry.

The participants will fly to all the capitals of the Asean member countries to deliver the official invitation for the Sea Games.

At today's ceremony held at the Royal Malaysian Air Force base in Sungai Besi, Dr Mahathir also signed the first portion of a 15km banner, which is expected to break the record as the longest in the world.

The current Guinness Book of Record achievement, which stands at 10.15km, is being held by India.

Dr Mahathir was accompanied by Youth and Sports Minister Datuk Hishammuddin

Hussin, his wife Tengku Datin Marsilla Tengku Abdullah, Asean ambassadors and high commissioners and also heads of local institutions of higher learning.

During the expedition, the junior pilots will hand over portions of the banner to be completed by each Asean member country.

It would then be sewn together to form the 15km banner.

Earlier in the day, several other activities were held for the public.

They included street soccer, skateboarding, a static display of RMAF aircraft and remote control air show.

Visitors also got a first-hand look at the aircraft which are participating in the expedition.