

08 OCT 2001

LIMA-Maritime

ALL GOES WELL WITH THE MARITIME SEGMENT OF LIMA 2001

By: Noor Hammad Wariman

LANGKAWI, Oct 8 (Bernama) -- All is going well in the Maritime segment of the Langkawi International Maritime and Aerospace (Lima 2001) exhibition opening here tomorrow.

This morning 30 warships and 24 admirals arrived at the Awana Porto Malai here.

Executive Chairman of HW Lima Sdn Bhd, the segment's organiser, Tan Sri Wahab Nawari, who was elated over the participation of more than 270 exhibitors from 22 countries said today local maritime manufacturers should make the exhibition the platform to showcase Malaysian products.

"With more than 130 overseas trade delegations, they should take this opportunity to sell their products which are on par with others eventhough the results will take some time for evaluation", he told reporters here.

He said the maritime segment of the exhibition would showcase every facet of maritime interest in tourism and fisheries in this region and not merely on the the defence aspect.

Wahab said the six shipbuilders from Malaysia taking part in the exhibition should realise the importance of the maritime industry to the country as the industry had been around for a longtime and had been expanding.

He said one of the the highlights from the segment was the participation of French helicopter Fennec which was rented by the Royal Malaysian Navy's air wing.

Visitors would also have the opportunity to see the latest design of the RM3.8 million combat boat, CB-90H, used by the RMN's special unit, Paskal, he said.

Wahab said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad would be present at a ceremony on Oct 11 at which the Swedish-built vessel would be handed over to the RMN.

Meanwhile the Director of the Maritime Operations Centre Captain Abdul Hadi Abdul Rashid said warships from Italy (ITS San Guisto), India, Indonesia, Singapore, Thailand, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka anchored here today.

He said 20 RMN vessels including KD Jebat and KD Lekiu as well as patrol and surveillance boats from the Customs, Immigration and Fisheries departments as well as the Marine Police had also arrived here.

Visitors can also witness the "street march" by 800 navy personnel from various countries including India and the United Kingdom along Pesiaran Putera, Kuah, on Oct 13.

The three-kilometre march would begin at Dataran Helang and end at Hotel Tiara.

He also advised tour boats not to berth close to the big ships anchored in the Tanjung Malai area.

-- BERNAMA

NH NH AAM