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Flight-SEA

ASEAN GOODWILL FLIGHT 2001 ARRIVES IN HANOI

By: Rozaini Ahmad

HANOI, Aug 12 (Bernama) -- The Asean Goodwill Flight 2001 arrived here today from Vientiane.

The Royal Malaysian Air Force (RMAF) CN235 aircraft, carrying seven crew members, journalists and members of the Asean Goodwill expedition touched down at the No-Bai International Airport here at 9.30am local time.

They were garlanded on arrival by a representative of the Vietnamese government and staff of the Malaysian embassy in Hanoi. Also present was Vietnamese Olympic Council deputy president Dr Doan Thao.

Meanwhile, the two Rakan Muda light planes did not join the RMAF aircraft in the flight here for fear of encountering the Typhoon Usagi, which slammed into the country yesterday, triggering flash floods.

Both planes will fly direct from Vientiane to Phnom Penh, Cambodia on Wednesday to re-join the group.

The presentation of the invitation letter to the SEA Games XXI to the Vietnamese government will be held tomorrow.

The special representative to the Minister of Youth and Sports Abdul Latiff Endot will present the letter to Vietnamese Minister of Sports and Physical Culture Nguyen Danh Thai.

In the morning, the Rakan Muda participants in the expedition will hold a dialogue session with members of the Vietnamese Youth Association before going on a tour of the Vietnamese Civil Aviation Centre.

The 17-day Asean Goodwill Flight, which departed Malaysia on July 14, will cover some 4,000 nautical miles passing through Myanmar, Laos, Vietnam, Cambodia and Thailand to hand over invitation to the SEA Games.

Prime Minister Menteri Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad had seen them off at the RMAF base in Sungei Besi, Kuala Lumpur.

--BERNAMA

JAI AFY KHY ABG