

23/08/2001

Sea Games banner to set world record

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SUBANG, Wed. - A 15km-long banner made for the 21st Sea Games next month is expected to get Malaysia into the Guinness Book of World Records.

Twelve institutions of higher learning are involved in making the banner which will surpass the 10.15-km record now held by India.

Asean Voyage of Friendship 2001 special envoy Abdul Latif Endot said besides the Games, the banner would also be put up in conjunction with National Day.

Abdul Latif, who is also senior confidential secretary to Youth and Sports Minister Datuk Hishammuddin Hussein, said each of the 12 institutions had to prepare a banner between one and one-and-a-half km long representing the countries participating in the Games.

He said Universiti Teknologi Mara (UiTM) had done a banner for Malaysia, Sedaya College for Cambodia and Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia for Indonesia.

The banners would then be affixed to the Light Rail Transit line from Sentul to Bukit Jalil. Officials from the Guinness Book of World Records would measure the length.

UiTM today displayed its banner at the Royal Malaysian Air Force base here in conjunction with the arrival of two light experimental aircraft whose crew had toured Asean countries to extend invitations to the Games.

The event at the base also coincided with the return of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad from Uganda.

UiTM's Faculty of Art and Design dean Professor Mohamed Sharif Mustapha said 400 students and 12 staff-members took a week to complete the banner.

Youth and Sports Ministry secretary-general Datuk Mahamad Zabri Min, the first to sign the banner, said the Games fever was already in the air.

"It was the Rakan Muda volunteers who helped build the two experimental aircraft or Zodiac aircraft - the 9M-ERM and 9M-ERA.

He said the Zodiac aircraft had sent invitations to Indonesia Brunei, Singapore, Myanmar, Laos, Cambodia and Thailand. The aircraft could not go to Vietnam because of a tropical storm and to the Philippines because of a typhoon.

However, invitations were extended to both the countries by another RMAF aircraft which took journalists and other Rakan Muda junior trainee pilots.