

13/08/2001

## World's longest banner taking shape

Alina Simon; V. Ramanan

KUALA LUMPUR, Sun. - Malaysians will have something to be proud of on Merdeka Day as the country attempts to create the world's longest banner measuring 15 kilometres.

The current record holder is India which set a 10.15km record.

And in conjunction with the staging of the XXI Kuala Lumpur Sea Games next month, the banner will feature the national flags and landmarks of Asean countries.

On Aug 31, the banner will be displayed along the Star-LRT track from the Bukit Jalil station to the Sentul station from Aug 31 until the end of the games next month.

The task of making the banner fell on the students from 12 higher learning institutions around the country who have been given their respective portions to work on.

Among the institutions are the Islamic International University, Universiti Malaya, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, Universiti Teknologi Mara, Universiti Teknologi Malaysia, Universiti Putra Malaysia, Universiti Tenaga Nasional, Universiti Multimedia, Maktab Perguruan Ilmu Khas, Kolej Sedaya, Universiti Tun Abdul Razak and Lim Kok Wing Institute of Creative Technology.

The ten institutions would prepare a one-km banner each representing the 10 Asean countries while the other two will prepare a portion on the Merdeka Day and the Asean Voyage of Friendship 2001.

IIU assistant director of student affairs and project co-ordinator Mohamad Mos said 250 students including 35 Brunei students gathered last Saturday to complete the 1.5km portion representing Brunei.

He said Brunei would show off its national flag and flower, and the famous landmarks such as the Sultan Omar Ali Saifuddin Mosque, the Istana Nurul Iman and the Visit Brunei Year 2001 logo.

And to make it more meaningful to the Brunei athletes, the university's Brunei students painted the designs that represent their country.

Today is UM's turn to complete their portion which will represent Singapore.

Its student affairs department official Aziah Saad said more than 60 students had started the work on the banner since last week.

The institutions are required to hand over the finished portion by Wednesday to the secretariat for the pieces to be sewn together.

Last month, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad launched the record-breaking project by signing on the first portion of the banner.