

Visitors get chance to visit warship

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LANGKAWI: Visitors to the maritime segment of Lima 2003 finally got the opportunity to board one of the 38 participating naval ships yesterday morning.

Although the sky was overcast, it did not rain, thus allowing the people to be ferried to the Indian Navy's *INS Delhi*.

Many queued up at Porto Malai to board *INS Delhi* and were given a tour of the top deck of the vessel, which is the largest among the ships participating in Lima 2003.

At a jetty nearby, visitors waited for their turn to be taken out on a 45-minute ferry ride for a closer look at some of the other ships anchored offshore.

Alan Kumarasamy, 65, from Kulim, said he was elated with his tour of the offshore vessels.

"I never expected to be able to do so. The last time, we only walked around the ships which were berthed," said the medical assistant.

Lim Wei Jun, 13, from Taiping, said he was impressed with *INS Delhi*, saying: "It was a great experience for me."

Wan Mohd Zulkhir, 24, from Bangi, said it was "great" to go aboard the destroyer to feel its real size and see its weaponry.

It, however, rained in the afternoon and the boat tours were can-

celled. But this still did not deter many from taking in the sights at the maritime exhibition.

Engineer Othman Yusof, who was among them, was dripping wet after braving the rain to take his family to the maritime exhibition.

But he insisted the trip had been worth it as his three-year-old son Khairul managed to personally catch a glimpse of the many ships anchored offshore.

Othman, 45, who is from Penang, said this was the first time he and his family had visited the exhibition, adding: "We decided to sample the attractions available at the exhibition based on the media coverage of Lima 2003."

Over at the aerospace segment at the Mahsuri International Exhibition Hall, visitors got the chance in the morning to go onto the tarmac to see the planes on display.

This, however, was halted after the weather turned bad in the afternoon and visitors spent time touring the booths at the hall.

Yesterday was the final day of Lima 2003, which was officially opened by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad on Tuesday.

The next edition of Lima is scheduled for 2005.