

29 SEP 2003

LIMA-PREPARATION

LANGKAWI ALL SET TO HOST LIMA 2003

LANGKAWI, Sept 29 (Bernama) -- Participants of the 7th Langkawi Maritime and Aerospace Exhibition (LIMA) rushed to put the finishing touches as they get ready for the largest aerospace and maritime exhibition in the region.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad will open the aerospace exhibition at the Mahsuri International Exhibition Centre in Padang Mat Sirat here at 10am tomorrow and the maritime exhibition in the afternoon on board the floating pavilion at Porto Malai in Ketawang.

He is also expected to launch the Langkawi Yacht Registry that would make the island as the centre for yacht registration in Malaysia.

Since its inception in 1991, the biennial exhibition had swiftly grown to become a major regional air and maritime show attracting major international aerospace and maritime industry players.

The six-day LIMA 2003 is the largest ever and the most impressive as 600 companies from 28 countries are participating compared to 500 companies from 27 countries in 2001.

The first LIMA attracted 150 companies.

Britain's world renown Red Arrows, the Royal Malaysian Air Force's aerobatic team as well as aerial displays of the Russian SU-30MK Sukhoi and Boeing's FA-18E/EF Super Hornets are expected to thrill participants and visitors alike.

Other attractions include a parachute jump by some 200 paratroopers of the Malaysian Rapid Deployment Force from two C130 Hercules.

Apart from the exhibition, LIMA will witness the signing of several agreements worth several hundred million ringgit for the procurement of aircraft and its electronic components.

The Red Arrows team, here for its sixth visit, regarded LIMA as the most important airshow in its calendar.

Defence Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak said LIMA had propelled Langkawi into the world map and helped accelerate and modernise Malaysia's defense system. -- BERNAMA

TEAM TJK