

16/02/2004

English Channel swimmer plans Bering Straits Challenge

PUTRAJAYA, Sun. - English Channel swimmer Datuk Abdul Malik Mydin has another challenge planned: swimming across the Bering Straits between Russia and Alaska.

He said he would start training in April for the feat, which he hoped to perform in two years' time.

The "Bering Straits Challenge", he said, would be tough (the distance is 90km) and dangerous because of freezing temperatures.

"I will be writing to the Russian authorities for permission to swim across the straits and will also be getting advice from a specialist on hypothermia," he said tonight at the Precinct 8 Multipurpose Hall, where he and wife Datin Rahayu Ahmad held their bersanding ceremony.

Malik, who became the first Southeast Asian to swim across the English Channel in August, said he would be training in Australia.

The bersanding ceremony tonight was attended by dignitaries such as Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak, former Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad and wife Tun Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali.