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Organisers hoping for clear blue skies

THE Langkawi International Maritime and Aerospace (Lima) exhibition enjoyed a morning of sunny weather yesterday, and organisers are keeping their fingers crossed for clear blue skies tomorrow.

However, movements to and from the ships at anchor were put on hold following rough sea conditions later in the afternoon.

Demonstrations by Wondercraft Sdn Bhd, Destination Marine Services, DK Yachts, the Fire and Rescue Department and the Royal Malaysian Navy were held according to schedule.

The exhibition, into its last day for trade visitors yesterday, saw about 20 agreements concluded since Tuesday including Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs), Letters of Awards, industrial co-operations and other contractual agreements.

These agreements involved both the Defence and Civil Marine sectors.

One of the significant deals during the show was a RM70 million project awarded by the Government to Muhibbah Engineering Bhd to build a National Hydrography Centre in Selangor.

Another was a strategic alliance agreement between Malaysian Heavy Industry Group Sdn Bhd and Daewoo Heavy Industries and Machinery of Korea to manufacture the first Malaysian-made diesel engines for maritime and industrial sectors.

There was also a strong presence of foreign delegates.

The latter were here to attract marine companies and the navy with their latest technology and equipment in the industry.

It is believed that millions of ringgit worth of deals were concluded during the maritime exhibition between trade participants and visitors.

The maritime section also saw the launch of the Langkawi International Yacht Registry by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

The Sultan of Selangor and the Regent of Kelantan visited the maritime show.

Since its launch, the exhibition has been visited by the Sultan of Brunei Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah, Yang di-Pertuan Agong Tuanku Syed Sirajuddin, Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi and Navy chiefs from 21 countries.

The presence of 17 foreign naval ships also spiced things up at Awana Porto Malai where the exhibition was held.