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### Crowd thrilled by aerial display

IT was "oohs" and "aahs" all the way as thousands braved the morning rain to visit the aerospace exhibition.

All were promptly rewarded when the showers abated and the aircraft roared to the skies, much to the delight of the umbrellatoting crowd gathered at the Mahsuri International Exhibition Centre.

Children gasped and shouted excitedly when the airshow started with the thrilling manoeuvres of the British Red Arrows team zooming past with plumes of red, white and blue smoke.

The Red Arrows could not put up a full display due to the weather, but the crowd was entertained nonetheless with spectacular formations.

Children and adults had their eyes fixed on the grey skies as the Rooivalk attack helicopter and the Sukhoi Su-30 performed their aerobatic manoeuvres.

Equally thrilling were the Royal Malaysian Air Force MiG-29N Fulcrum jets, which made heads turn when they whizzed past with after-burners blazing.

People were also drawn to the exhibition booths that displayed model aircraft, army vehicles and high technology gizmos to keep the enemy at bay.

Visitors were seen scrambling for souvenirs ranging from pens to lapel pins from exhibitors.

They also got autographs signed and had their pictures taken with pilots and members of the Red Arrows team before the airshow started.

Twelve-year-old Khairul Shafiq Nasir and his friends who were carrying gift bags, courtesy of aircraft makers, were seen marvelling at the space exhibits.

"This is our second Lima visit and we were thrilled with the Red Arrows' performance," he said.

Khairul Shafiq said he and his friends had also hoped to catch a glimpse of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad at the exhibition.

"Although he is not here, we want to say terima kasih (thank you) to Dr Mahathir for bringing Lima to Langkawi."