

30/09/2003

Dr Mahathir opens Lima '03 today

LANGKAWI, Mon. - The Langkawi Maritime and Aerospace Exhibition will be opened tomorrow by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, who mooted the idea for such an exhibition 12 years ago.

More than 800 companies will be taking part in the exhibition, which promises to be the best ever and a fitting tribute to Dr Mahathir, the man who dared to bring home an exhibition of such a scale.

A special edition book on Lima, to be unveiled by Dr Mahathir on Friday, will narrate how his trip to Oshkosh, Wisconsin, the United States, turned out to be the catalyst for the Langkawi event.

While Lima may be much younger than Singapore's Asian Aerospace, the number of companies which continue to take up exhibition pavilions at Mahsuri International Exhibition Centre and at Awana Porto Malai speaks volumes of Lima's growing reputation.

It has earned recognition and respect among industry players, a place on the annual aerospace calendar and given time, it would grow and develop.

The highlight this week will be the aerial display by the Royal Malaysian Air Force's top guns flying MiG29s and F/A-18D Hornets.

This is in addition to performances by the US Navy's F/A-18F Super Hornets, the US Air Force's F-16C, Russia's Sukhoi Su-30MK and the Royal Air Force Red Arrows aerobatic display team.

Also on show will be the Royal Malaysian Navy's latest procurement, the Super Lynx helicopter.

Lima has also been the catalyst for the country's space development programme.

Visitors will also see a space pavilion set up by the National Space Agency.

As for the maritime exhibition at Awana Porto Malai in Tanjung Malai, 46 warships and other vessels, including luxury yachts, will be docked for display.

Of this, 18 are foreign vessels and the rest from the Royal Malaysian Navy and other maritime agencies.

Participating countries include Australia, France, India, Indonesia, Libya, Maldives, New Zealand, Pakistan, Philippines, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, South Korea, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Thailand, Turkey, the United Kingdom and the United States.