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Hovercraft club wants 10,000 new members

Sager Ahmad

MALAYSIAN Hovercraft Association is on a membership drive and its target is to recruit some 10,000 members in two years.

The club also has plans to set up branches in major districts nationwide.

Club vice-president Datuk Abu Raihan Wan Jaafar said the club would line up a number of activities to get youths to become members.

"We have been organising activities in co-operation with the Youth and Sports Ministry under its `Rakan Muda' programme," he said.

"This is in line with the Ministry's plans to set up a `Rakan Muda' Hovercraft Association."

Abu Raihan said the club welcomed individuals and groups, including hovercraft owners, to become members.

"With a strong group, we can hold many activities, such as expeditions to the numerous lakes and rivers in the country," he said.

The membership drive is one of the club's short-term plan to establish the country as a centre for hovercraft activities as well as giving members the opportunity to explore how the hovercraft can be used for leisure and work.

"Part of our long-term plan is to host the world hovercraft championship in 2006," Abu Raihan said.

"The prestigious event is held every two years and we hope to get participants from some 50 countries.

"We also hope the championship will be a catalyst to boost the country's economy as well as promote the tourism industry."

Abu Raihan said the club had also initiated plans to locally assemble the US-made Neoteric hovercraft, the type commonly used in the country.

"Production is expected to begin later this year with a target of 500 hovercrafts a year for local use and export.

"We have sent four technicians for training at the manufacturer."

Abu Raihan said he was confident the club's objectives would be met, especially with the Sultan of Pahang Sultan Ahmad Shah as the association patron, coupled with the keen interest shown by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

Those who want to know more about the association can call Cito Holdings Sdn Bhd at 03-56311286 or fax 03-56302800.

They can also call Mujiburahman Ismail at 012-2939244 or email hovercom@lycos.com.