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In appreciation of Dr M the prime mover

ALTHOUGH it was Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad who was host for a welcoming dinner last night for exhibitors and delegates to Lima `03, it was the Prime Minister who received a pleasant surprise as the night unfolded - a tribute to his special role as prime mover of the local aviation industry.

The Prime Minister, accompanied by Datuk Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali, was joined for the dinner by the Sultan of Brunei Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah, Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, Defence Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak and Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Syed Razak Syed Zain.

After dinner, Najib presented the Prime Minister with a diamond shaped Langkawi crystal ornament for Dr Mahathir's role as "prime mover" behind Lima, which is now in its seventh edition.

Lima `03 aerospace exhibition organiser Le Proton Lima Sdn Bhd executive chairman Datuk Radzi Manan then presented Dr Mahathir with a scale model of a very special aeroplane - the "Flyer" which was flown on Dec 17, 1903, by brothers Orville and Wilbur Wright in the world's first powered flight.

Next it was the turn of Lima `03 Maritime exhibition organiser HW Lima Sdn Bhd executive chairman Vice-Admiral (rtd) Tan Sri Abdul Wahab Nawi to present his gift of a limited edition porcelain eagle to Dr Mahathir.

But just as the Prime Minister and guests were about to depart the hall later, the announcement came that a "special treat" was in store for Dr Mahathir - a lively fireworks display.