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# LIMA '15 the best ever, says Najib

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LANGKAWI: The 13th edition of the Langkawi International Maritime and Aerospace Exhibition (LIMA) has been described by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Mohd Najib Abdul Razak as the best ever.

The five-day event closed yesterday with over 175,000 visitors, far surpassing the 130,000 visitors seen in 2013.

More importantly, this year's event saw RM9.3bil worth of contracts inked (more than double of LIMA 2013's RM4.2bil), other than numerous letters of intent, letters of acceptance, and memoranda of understanding.

More than 510 aerospace and maritime companies from 36 countries<sup>^</sup> took part, including major players in the defence industry such as Boeing, Airbus, Safran and Lockheed Martin.

Touted as the largest ever LIMA, visitors had close encounters with 110 aircraft, 65 maritime vessels and five aerobatic teams from the United Arab Emirates, Malaysia, China, Indonesia, and Singapore.

The Russian navy also sent three ships this year, setting a record.

Deputy Defence Minister Datuk Abdul Rahim Bakri, who read out a statement on behalf of Defence Minister Datuk Seri Hishammuddin Hussein, said this year's LIMA was Asean-focused in honour of Malaysia's chairmanship of Asean this year.

"This has had a wonderful impact on regional attendance especially with the Asean Defence Ministers Meeting held a day

before the start of LIMA'15.

"The number of senior delegations and official missions invited to LIMA'15 totalled 277 from 55 countries," he said of the event that also featured seven high-impact conferences and talks such as the Chiefs of Navy Roundtable Talks, the Asean Aviation Summit, the LIMA'15 Air Chiefs Conference, the Might Open Forum, and the Asean Business Forum.

Highlights of the show included the Royal Malaysian Air Force's newest acquisition, the Airbus A400M transport aircraft.

The participation of China's August 1st aerobatic team also provided much entertainment to visitors, when the agility of the Chengdu J-10 fighter jets were displayed.

The police and special military forces from 10 Asean countries, including Malaysia, and the UAE, also put on an impressive multinational counter-terrorism exercise at the Langkawi International Shooting Range.

The 14th edition of LIMA is scheduled for March 2017, and the organiser, HW LIMA Sdn Bhd, expects a 10% increase in terms of participating countries.

HW LIMA Sdn Bhd managing director Ahmad Dzuhri Wahab said as far as the market was concerned, LIMA was seen as a niche for Asia and Asean.

"If the number of senior delegations and official missions attending LIMA is maintained, it'll be fantastic as 148 of them participated this year.

"The engagement between the delegations and exhibitors can also be improved although it was encouraging in this edition," he added.