

By : DATO' SRI MOHD NAJIB TUN ABD RAZAK
Venue : KL HILTON, KUALA LUMPUR
Date : 26-06-2006
Title : IN CONJUNCTION WITH LIMA '07 OFFICIAL LAUNCHING CEREMONY

Bismillahirrahmanirrahim
Assalamualaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh

Y.Bhg. Tan Sri Dato' Sri Subhan bin Jasmon
Secretary General
Ministry of Defence

Y.Bhg. Tan Sri Kamaruzamman bin Shariff
Chairman of World Aerospace Sdn Bhd

Y.Bhg. Tan Sri Abd Wahab Nawi
Chairman of HW LIMA Sdn Bhd

Members of the Organizing Committee

Excellencies,

Distinguished Guests,

Ladies & Gentlemen,

First of all allow me to express my gratitude to World Aerospace and HW LIMA for inviting me to be a part of this special occasion. I am delighted to be here to join all of you for this introductory launch of LIMA 2007 . As you all know LIMA '07 will be the ninth exhibition in the series since its inception 15 years ago. Over the years , the event has increasingly emerged as a focal point for major players in the aviation, aerospace and maritime industries, in the same way it has attracted the attention of national leaders, senior government officials, and the international media.

I am happy to note that since its small and humble beginnings in 1991, this exhibition has since grown to be one of the world's premier maritime and aerospace exhibitions that rivals other world-class maritime and air shows.

For those who have participated in LIMA over the years, this event has become much anticipated as a perfect platform to showcase the latest state-of the-art products and services. LIMA'07 will yet again be the perfect time and occasion to strengthen your presence and enhance your visibility within the industry, in this vibrant and vital region.

The LIMA '07 show, as was the case with all the other LIMA events, will be another spectacular industry event showcasing the latest in aviation, aerospace and defence technology, in front of an informed and focused international audience. It goes without saying that it is also an extraordinary promotional and networking opportunity that promises to be extremely fruitful and beneficial to all parties.

Ladies and gentlemen,

LIMA '07 is expected to attract thousands of accredited trade visitors, and as I have mentioned, these include key decision makers from governments, national security and armed forces and industry players from throughout the Asia Pacific region and, indeed, the world. They will come to compare and evaluate competing technologies and products. They will come with nothing else in mind than getting down to serious business.

And defence, aviation and aerospace in this region is serious business indeed. The Asia-Pacific region is undergoing major growth in these sectors, with budgets in many countries continuing to rise along side ever-increasing levels of sophistication in technologies, equipment, systems and operational methods demanded by respective Armed Forces.

The burgeoning markets of the Asia-Pacific offer outstanding and unprecedented opportunities. The economies of this region are growing at a remarkable rate and demand for commercial and defence-related aviation and aerospace technology has never been greater. Malaysia, itself a large and thriving marketplace in its own right, is also a stable and strategically platform from which to launch a major marketing or promotional push into the Asia-Pacific.

Analysts have assessed that the total market for defence exports to the Asia-Pacific alone is predicted to be in the region to US\$70 billion this year. The Asia-Pacific is arguably the second largest market in the world for aerospace and maritime defence products.

Sub-regional market for arms in Southeast Asia is set to grow as postponed force modernization programmes are implemented and new procurement programmes are introduced. The region's strategy towards modernization of military capabilities through the addition of new technology platforms, complemented by improvements in their command and control, information management and battlespace knowledge capabilities present multi-billion dollar business opportunities for the global aerospace and defence community. Growing terrorist threats have also heightened security awareness and collaboration amongst regional countries.

It should be noted that this LIMA event has both military and civil focus. This is important in light of the fact that in the civil aviation field, manufacturers competing to set the standard for commercial aviation in the second century of flight are shaping the trend and pace for airlines in the Asia-Pacific region. Over the 2 decades

from 2003 to 2022, aviation giant, Boeing, forecasts airlines worldwide will buy a total of 24,300 new aircraft, costing US\$1.9 trillion. Asian airlines will buy or lease 6,200 airliners, costing US\$649 billion over the next 20 years.

Meanwhile, the stylish take-off of low-cost carriers in Asia, the allure of technology, liberalization in the Asian skies and restructuring of operations have given fresh impetus to the region's airline community, spearheading the swift recovery and innovation drive in the Asia-Pacific airline market. This in turn, has spurred the increase of support industries such as MRO and others.

All of this reflects a dynamic trend for aviation aerospace and maritime markets and this bodes well for LIMA '07 participants. On top of this, I have been told that LIMA '07 will see an expanded focus on Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAV) as these machines are playing an increasing critical role in military operations, and even for civil duties. Industry experts forecast that the UAV market will grow to US\$20 billion over next 20 years with Asia and Middle East accounting for 25% of the global UAV market.

Thus with these factors in mind, the possibilities of what can be achieved at LIMA '07 are endless. That being the case, I have every confidence that LIMA '07 will continue to draw record breaking crowds.

For exhibitors in particular, I'm sure that many are well aware of the complete range of facilities that are available for you to use in showcasing you're your products, whether they be state of the art aircraft and parts or cutting edge technology gadgets and gizmos for the aviation and maritime industries. I am sure that you will find LIMA organizers are well prepared to ensure you have everything you need to make this exhibition and showcase a world-class success yet again. Eventually, I would like to see LIMA become synonymous with the same level of success as the renowned Paris Air Show in France, or Farnborough in England. I believe this vision is well within our grasp, and I am confident that LIMA will very soon be - if it isn't already - accepted as the primary Aviation and Maritime Showcase in the region.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have no doubt that LIMA '07 will be just as good if not better than all its predecessors in the past. The official date for the LIMA show in Langkawi has been slated for December 4 till December 8 2007, and already efforts are underway to ensure every improvement that needs to be made will be made and every possible measure will be taken to ensure that the event will run smoothly from all aspects.

I should add that we look forward with anticipation to another spectacular LIMA, this time under the new organisation of World Aerospace Sdn Bhd . World Aerospace Sdn Bhd will be the new organiser for the Lima Aerospace Exhibition, while HW LIMA will continue to be the organiser for the Lima Maritime Exhibition. I'm happy to acknowledge here that the new chairman of World Aerospace Sdn Bhd is none other

than the former mayor of Kuala Lumpur and former Defence Ministry Secretary General, Tan Sri Kamaruzamman Sharif, while the Executive Director is the former Air Force Chief Datuk Sulaiman Mahmud. I have every confidence that LIMA Aerospace under their leadership will flourish and achieve greater heights of accomplishment.

Ladies and gentlemen, all of us here today would like to see another successful LIMA in 2007. I am certain that with the commitment of all the stakeholders of LIMA, from the government, to the organizers, to the exhibitors, to the industry players right down to the participants of LIMA, we can all play a role to make LIMA 2007 a brilliant success. I am most hopeful that this aspiration of ours will become a reality, come December of next year.

On that note, it is with great pleasure that I now officially launch LIMA 2007.

Thank you