



Headline	Gearing up for biggest participation at LIMA 2013		
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KUALA LUMPUR: The International Maritime and Aerospace Exhibition 2013 (LIMA 2013), which officially kicks off today in Langkawi, Kedah, will see MARA's biggest participation for the first time. MARA is featuring its expertise to produce quality human capital in the aerospace and maritime industries, strengthened by the infrastructure facilities it has including education, R&D and investment capabilities in related companies. Its investment senior director Salmah Hayati Ghazali said MARA participation in LIMA 2013 shows the agency is serious in its role to continue to drive the economy and become a leader in the industry. "LIMA 2013 is an important platform for us to promote our human capital and other infrastructure that will benefit the industry players and our country," she told Business Times in an interview recently. Salmah said MARA's commitment in this industry is apparent through the establishment of its UniKL MIAT, which produces skilled national aerospace, and University Kuala Lumpur Malaysian Institute of Marine Engineering Technology (UniKL MIMET). The latter is responsible for human capital in maritime. She said MARA's production of human capital is through both these institutions and other institutions of technical and vocational education and training (TVET) MARA. "Our main focus on the field training is based on eight disciplines that include communication/information and communication technology (ICT), welding, tool and die, MRO, maritime, composite, design and manufacturing," she said. TVET MARA - via the German-Malaysian Institute (GMI), Kolej Kemahiran Tinggi Mara (KKTM) and MARA Skills Institute (IKM) - also produces graduates who are accepted in the industry through courses like metal fabrication technology, machine tools manufacturing and CNC precision technology. Salmah noted that the collaboration with companies or agencies in the industry is very important to develop education and training modules for the needs of the industry. "Through these strategic collaboration, MARA will enhance the modules and training courses available as well as increase the efficiency and effectiveness of the programmes to allow students to meet the marketability of industrial training that requires 3,000 skilled workers by 2015," she said. As a result of internal synergies and potential collaborations at LIMA 2013, MARA will be able to create effective relationships between academia with global players which led to more highly skilled workforce.