

Wednesday 21 June 2006

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No. 17141 (PP1641/3/2007) Peninsula RM1.20 Sabah RM1.80 Sarawak RM1.80

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**BACK ON THE ROAD:** Lewis leaving Cinta Sayang Golf and Country Resort in Sungai Petani yesterday after spending the night there as part of his journey round the world. He will head for Kangar before entering Thailand via Padang Besar.

# Briton set to finish 13-year trip

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**B**RITON Jason Lewis, who left London 12 years ago to embark on a feat to circumnavigate the world on bicycle and paddle-boat across some 20 countries, is set to complete his feat in Greenwich, London, in July next year.

The 38-year-old biology graduate from Dorset, England, started his journey from London in 1994 and has cycled on land and paddled his boat across oceans for a total of 57,600km across 14 countries so far.

Guided by global positioning system and a map, Lewis' expedition has taken years as he made several stops at countries where he worked to gather funds.

He arrived in Johor from Singapore on June 6 and cycled along the west coast, reaching

Penang last Saturday and Sungai Petani on Monday where he spent the night at Cinta Sayang Golf and Country Resort.

Lewis said he would be heading for Kangar and then across the Thai border "in a day or two."

"I've always been fascinated by how people travel using only human power. I think we are a lot stronger than we give ourselves credit for," Lewis said when met yesterday.

He also said that of all the countries he had visited he was most impressed with Malaysia and the warm hospitality of her people.

"I remember arriving in Kedah where a truck driver drove by and honked and waved at me with a thumbs-up sign to give me encouragement.

"This is so touching; it is something I won't find back home," he added.

Lewis also said he stopped to take a break from cycling two days each

week. However, he would not be able to rest when navigating the sea in his paddle-boat which is kept in warehouses around the world when not in use.

"You can't stop the boat in the middle of the ocean. You just got to keep paddling and when night falls, you let the boat take its course while you sleep in it like a dead man in a coffin," he said.

The eight-metre long wooden paddle-boat was custom-designed by naval engineers and an architecture firm in Exeter, England.

Lewis who represents the international networking organisation Expedition 360, said the expedition exercise would be used as educational material for students in countries like Britain and Australia.

"We also made video blogs for students to acquire the art of goal-setting and to learn about different cultures and societies around the world," he said.

Apart from keeping tabs on his

mileage

on the road and sea, Lewis keeps in touch with his parents in Dorset via e-mail as often as he can.

"Being in the wilderness has taught me tremendously too. Being 'divorced' from human contact, I was forced to look at some aspects of myself that I never knew existed," he said, adding that he brought along a first-aid kit and dry food ration with him.

He said his globe-trotting venture was expected to cost US\$650,000 (RM2.4mil) at the end of the journey next year.

Lewis was given a rousing send-off at Cinta Sayang Golf and Country Resort yesterday by its executive director Yeong Chee Fun and business development manager Chris Murray, who provided him with a T-shirt, cap, dinner, breakfast and a free night's stay at the resort.

Those who wish to view Lewis' video blog can visit [www.expedition360.com](http://www.expedition360.com) or e-mail him at



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