Seminar to boost equine sports

THE UTM International Horse Show has grown into an international event since it was first organised in 1995 to promote equine studies.

It has consistently attracted top quality participants and this year’s event will also have a seminar aimed at expanding the network of co-operation within and outside the country in relation to equine studies and matters related to equine sports.

UTM vice-chancellor Prof Datuk Dr Zaini Ujang said the event was first organised by UTM to “promote equine studies, equine sports and equine activities among students, staff as well as the public to develop interest and passion for sports.”

The five-day event, which starts on Wednesday, will be graced by Sultan of Johor Sultan Ibrahim Sultan Iskandar.

“The seminar will be a gathering of the best minds and experts on matters related to equine, enabling the sharing of experiences and best practices in the field as UTM sees the potential of the equine industry in this country as a value-driven and entrepreneurial venture that would enhance the economy of the country,” said Dr. Zaini.

UTM is also currently working on establishing the UTM Equine Academy, focusing on joint academic programmes and research in equine studies, in collaboration with the Hartpury College, University of West England and the Northern Melbourne Institute of TAFE to make equine studies in UTM academically and commercially viable.

“At the same time, UTM aims to offer not just the knowledge in equine studies but also training to identify talents in horse riding who can represent the nation. All these initiatives and efforts will put UTM as a global player in the equine field, while developing interest in equine sports among students and the community at large.”

Some 156 local and foreign participants from Australia, Indonesia and Singapore will compete in this year’s event at the Universiti Teknologi Malaysia campus in Skudai, Johor Baru.

The championship will have two titles up for grabs, the Sultan Ibrahim trophy for the higher category and the Tengku Mahkota trophy for the lower category. By JJ Shah
UTM pro-chancellor Tan Sri Dr Salleh Mohd Nor receiving a replica of a BMW car key from Wearnes Autohaus Sdn Bhd representative Jack Zaal during a sponsorship presentation on Thursday for the UTM International Horse Show as UTM vice-chancellor Prof Datuk Dr Zaini Ujang looks on.