156 riders to show off prowess

HORSEMANSHIP SKILLS: The five-day event will take place at Universiti Teknologi Malaysia’s Equine Centre

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THE Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM) International Johor Horse Show 2012 will be held at UTM’s Equine Centre, here, from tomorrow until Sunday.

A total of 156 riders from 24 equestrian clubs will be taking part.

Eight riders from Victoria, Australia, will be participating in the equestrian category, dressage, show jumping and pony club mounted games.

UTM is hosting the show for the fourth time.

The event’s objectives are to provide a platform to attract students from local institutions of higher education to take part in equestrian activities and provide an opportunity for riding enthusiasts to test their riding skills.

UTM vice-chancellor Prof Datuk Dr Zaini Ujang, who won the 20km endurance race last year, is taking part in the 40km endurance race.

He said prizes worth RM90,000 await winners.

“The equestrian events include show jumping, dressage, and 20km, 40km and 80km endurance races,” Zaini added.

“Riders taking part include Nabil Ismail, the winner of last year’s Sultan Ibrahim Cup, who also won in the show jumping category,” Zaini added.

Wearnes Autohaus Sdn Bhd has contributed RM150,000 and announced the sponsorship of 124 BMW and Volkswagen cars as the official cars for the event.

Clear Motorrad and Nexedge Kenwood Sdn Bhd are sponsoring 29 high-powered BMW motorcycles and RM50,000 respectively.

The 80km ride is sanctioned by the Federation Equestre Internationale, an international body governing equestrian sports which is recognised by the International Olympic Committee.

The 40km ride is sanctioned by the Equestrian Association of Malaysia.

The equestrian centre was set up on UTM’s campus in 1995 to promote the sport and offer it as a co-curriculum activity for undergraduates.

Recently, the university signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Hartpury College of the University of West England, the Northern Melbourne Institute of Techni cal and Further Education of Australia and the Malaysian Equine Council to upgrade equestrian activities at UTM.
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