

27/05/2003

Legacy of a racing dream

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FORMULA One fans can now find information on the history and development of Sauber Petronas and its achievements in motorsports at the Petronas Motorsports Museum.

The museum is opening its doors to the public next month. It was recently launched by Youth and Sports Minister Datuk Hishammuddin Hussein. Located at Petronas Research and Scientific Centre in Bangi, Selangor, the museum houses more than 20 exhibits detailing its humble beginnings in 1988 to present day.

Occupying one level of the Petronas Motorsports Technical Centre, it showcases various Petronas sponsored vehicles, including 4x4s, motorcycles and the 2001 Sauber Petronas race cars driven by Nick Heidfeld and Kimi Raikkonen.

The museum took 12 months to complete and is part of the attempt by Petronas to develop, expand and add value to experiences gained through its involvement in various motorsports activities.

Visitors entering the museum will be greeted with a big wall of fame featuring images of 49 individuals who have pursued the common goal of excellence.

Among them are faces of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad; the late Tong Veng Kit, who was Petronas Sprinta TVK manager; Petronas chairman Tan Sri Azizan Zainul Abidin; Petronas president Tan Sri Hassan Marican; rally driver Karamjit Singh and Heidfeld.

Once inside, visitors can take a closer look at a range of fascinating exhibits, including Sauber Petronas V10 engine that powered the Red Bull Sauber Petronas C16 car in the 1997 FIA Formula One World Championship, a Yamaha TZ250R bike used by Naoki Matsudo and Shahrol Yuzy in Petronas Sprinta Team TVK's debut at the World Motorcycle Grand Prix, a 2002 Brazilian World Motorcycle Grand Prix Constructor's Trophy and Malaysia's first superbike, Petronas FP1, which is currently being used by Foggy Petronas Racing in the World Superbike Championship.