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Thousands of car lovers throng fair

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KUALA LUMPUR, Fri. - Thousands of car enthusiasts thronged the Putra World Trade Centre on the first day of the Kuala Lumpur International Motorshow (KLIMS), reputedly the largest event in South-east Asia.

Visitors, young and old as well as families, turned the event into an outing with their loved ones.

The organisers are expecting 350,000 visitors to the KLIMS over 10 days, 50,000 more than the previous event at the same venue.

The main VVIP at the show was Pengiran Sufri Bolkiah, the younger brother of the Sultan of Brunei. Accompanying him was Auto Euro Car Sdn Bhd director Datuk Mokhzani Mahathir.

The seven exhibition halls were filled with a magnificent "world-class" automotive showcase comprising 174 first-time exhibits, with exhibitors from 21 countries.

Some were there to see the cars, some for the latest car audio systems and others for the models who were parading with the cars.

Chief executive officer of Interexpo Sdn Bhd and co-manager of the KLIMS, Mak Weng Kit, said the first day of the event was "fantastic".

"Just walk around and you can see the crowd," he said, adding that the number of visitors would increase over the weekend and next week because of the school holidays.

The organisers are expecting parents to accompany their children since a special entrance fees of RM5 is offered.

One of the visitors, Alice Tay, from Johor Baru, who was with her family and relatives, said the KLIMS was both entertaining and educating.

"I'm very impressed. It's very educational and well-organised, and I'm here for my son who loves cars, although he is only six."

This year's KLIMS features 116 cars, nine prime movers and 49 motorcycles from 238 exhibitors. Visitors get to see concept cars, and pro-totype and special exhibits on display under the banners of Proton, Volvo, Porsche and Hyundai.

Visitors who wish to enhance the appearance and boost the functionality of their vehicles will be glad to know that there are shops selling supplementary items like car polish, lubricants and accessories.

Entertainment and profits aside, the organisers will be donating part of the ticket proceeds to selected charitable organisations.

They will also bring children from several welfare homes for the KLIMS experience on Sept 10.

The show begins at 11am and ends at 10pm, with a number of activities and contests lined up daily for visitors. Visitors stand a chance to win prizes ranging from cellular phones, car batteries to tyres and a RM200,000 car.