



Survivors: The pink challengers were the crowd's favourite as they garnered the most cheers when they were approaching the finish line.

As for the international teams, the British Dragons stood out with the highest number of medals won – four gold and one bronze – for the international categories.

Team Venus Buzz Get Active, an all-girl team from Malaysia, managed to clinch the second place in the Malaysia Corporate Ladies Crew category. They had been featured in *StarMetro* two days before the race.

The festival attracted sports and photography enthusiasts who came armed with cameras and camcorders to capture the teams in action.

For some like Mohamad Zain, a 67-year-old who hails from Kuantan, it was a fun family outing.

"I was visiting my children who are staying around Putrajaya and my grandchildren wanted to go to the children's pool at the Water

»It's a sport for everyone. Everyone can participate «
TAN SRI SAMSUDIN OSMAN

Sports Complex. We only found out about the festival when we got here.

"Judging from the crowd, the response is good. I hope this can attract more visitors to Putrajaya,"



International participants: The LAMS Sambas Kalimantan team from Indonesia were ecstatic after winning the Putrajaya International Challenge 2000-metre category.

he said.

Perbadanan Putrajaya (PPj) president Tan Sri Samsudin Osman said the event was in line with PPj's aim to make Putrajaya lake a venue for water sports in the country and the region.

"It's different from other events as there is a feeling of exuberance and the interest is maintained throughout the three days.

"It's a sport for everyone. Everyone can participate, even breast cancer

survivors, both men and women and the old and young.

"We look forward to the next dragon boat festival," he said.

Mega Events managing director Herman Chin, the organiser for the festival, said: "We want international visitors and the public at large to come and see the thrilling race, feel the exhilarating energy and passion from the participants in order to get a better understanding of the event."

With the encouraging response, it looks like the festival is set to be an annual event that will attract both local and foreign sports enthusiasts.

The event is organised by Mega Events Sdn Bhd, in collaboration with Perbadanan Putrajaya (PPJ), the Tourism Ministry, the Information Ministry, Communication and Culture Malaysia and the Penang Dragon Boat Association (PDBA), in affiliation with the International Dragon Boat Federation (IDBF).