

Dragon boats storm Putrajaya

More than 1,500 take part in three-day festival at the lake

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THE first Putrajaya International Dragon Boat Festival saw a total of 88 races for 42 categories that were completed over three days, including 24 Malaysian categories and 18 international categories.

It was held at the Putrajaya International Water Sports Complex and attracted thousands of spectators and more than 1,500 participants from around the world, including Britain, China, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Japan, Macau and Singapore.

Some teams were training till the last moments before the race began, practising their rowing techniques and jogging around the complex to warm up.

The crowd cheered wildly for the teams as they were approaching the



Warming up: Some of the teams doing stretching exercising before the race.

finish line, with the Pink Challenger, whose members are breast cancer survivors, garnering the biggest support.

Clad in bright pink outfits, the highly-spirited team managed to make it

to the top 16 in the Putrajaya International Challenge 2000m.

The overall champion was the Navy Paddlers Club from the Royal Malaysian Navy, sweeping a total of seven gold, three silver, and three bronze medals.



Rejoicing: The Cathay Pacific Dragon Boat Hong Kong team cheering after winning the second and third placing for the International Airline Crew category. They also ranked 13th and 14th for the Putrajaya International Challenge 2000metre category.