

FROM SOUTH & EAST

Foreign flavour at City Day fest

By JACK WONG

THE participation of foreigners added a splash of colour and fun at this year's Kuching City Day Street Parade.

African students from Inti College Sarawak, wearing their traditional costumes, proved to be a hit during the 3km procession along the busy business district in Kuching last week.

They danced to the beat of drums, much to the delight of the thousands of city folk and tourists who had lined the parade's route.

Another group of foreigners who took part in the event was a team of Indonesians.

Adding to the gaiety were children whose faces had been painted to look like cats and participants wearing masks and fancy costumes.

The procession, an important event in the Sarawak tourism calendar, also drew the participation of cultural troupes from various ethnic groups and school marching bands.

The Kuching Festival's mascot - Alca the Cat - was also there in its full splendour while a clown entertained the children.

Inti College Sarawak put up one of the five creative floats that stole the limelight during the three-hour procession.

Sarawak Tourism Minister Datuk Abang Johari Tun Openg, Mayors Chan Seng Khai (city south) and Madehi Kolek (city north), and local dignitaries were present.

The VIPs clapped and cheered the various contingents from a specially-built grandstand in front of the Kuching Hilton.

The parade, one of the highlights of the month-long Kuching Festival, ended at Padang Merdeka, where local bands and musicians provided another round of entertainment to the



A giant cat holding a phone on one of the floats at the parade.

crowd gathered there.

The City North Commission and City South Council have lined up some 35 musical, cultural and sporting events for the festival, which has been made merrier with the Sarawak Ruby Jubilee celebrations and the recent declaration of Kuching as a garden city.



Above: African students from Inti College joining in the festivities.



Left: Merdeka Palace Hotel staff masquerading as Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves.