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Melbourne mayor at our fiesta

MELBOURNE: More than 3,500 people, including Melbourne's Lord Mayor John So attended the "Fiesta Malaysia 2006" at the City Square here on Saturday.

Organised by the Malaysian Students Council of Australia (Masca), the fiesta featured Malaysian traditional dances and costumes, music and several food stalls.

There were also a sepak takraw demonstration and competition, congkak games, ketupat weaving demonstrations, a cultural fashion show, boria and bangra performances, silat and wushu displays and a Malay wedding ritual.

Masca president Akmal Suyat said the fiesta was to celebrate Deepavali and Hari Raya Aidilfitri as well as Christmas and Chinese New Year.



GET TOGETHER: So (centre) with Musa (on his left) giving the thumbs up at the event in Melbourne on Saturday. With them are the members of the organising committee and other guests. — Bernamapic

"We wanted to show Australians our wonderful multicultural and multiracial society and to demonstrate the essence of the Malaysian way of life, respecting and working together in harmony in building a better nation," Akmal said.

The director of the Malaysian Students Department in Australia, Musa Mansor, who opened the fiesta, said he was delighted to see Malaysian students of all races contributing to make the event a success.

"The Lord Mayor of Melbourne was most impressed," Musa said, before returning to Sydney where he is based.

Akmal said since the fiesta received good support from its sponsors, especially Tourism Malaysia, Masca would try to stage next year's event at the Federation Square here. — Bernama

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