About 15,000 people thronged the East-Coast National Higher Education Carnival, held at the Sports Complex of Universiti Malaysia Pahang (UMP) on February 28 and March 1 this year.

The carnival was organized by UMP to promote and disseminate information on the various programmes offered by the Public Institutions of Higher Learning, as well as to educate interested students and the public at large on how to apply for admission into the universities via online.

The two-day carnival was officiated by Prime Minister, Dato’ Sri Mohd Najib Tun Abdul Razak in the presence of Pahang Menteri Besar, Dato’ Sri Adnan Yaakob; Minister of Higher Learning, Dato’ Seri Mohamed Khaled Nordin; Chairman of UMP’s Board of Directors, Dato’ Mohd Hilmy Mohd Taib; and UMP Vice-Chancellor, Professor Dato’ Dr. Daing Nasir Ibrahim.

In his official address, Dato’ Sri Mohd Najib not only touched the aspect of education, but especially highlighted the economic crisis riddling the nation. In line with this, the Prime Minister hoped that future graduates will not only excel academically, but will also be skillfully equipped to take on bigger challenges, like how to manage the global economic downturn affecting the country.

Dato’ Sri Mohd Najib further stated that he took pride in UMP’s achievements and expressed hope that the university will continue to innovate in its researches and also lend its hands to community services to forge greater communal relationships.

He added that the university has the power to exert positive changes and the ability to demonstrate its aspirations to be on par with renowned international universities.

Aside from the academic interests, visitors to the carnival were also invited to listen to talks on the subject of aerospace by national astronaut Major Dr. Faiz Khaleed.