

IT'S 'OTAKU' TIME IN BAHRAIN

IGN Anime and Gaming convention sees a huge turnout



Children having fun at the event

PHOTO : MOHAMMED THASLEEM

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This weekend at Bahrain international circuit was that of colours, comics, anime and gaming as thousands of gaming and anime/manga

enthusiasts hoarded to the venue of IGN Anime and Gaming convention in the Kingdom.

The convention, proof of the worldwide phenomenon of more and more youngsters getting hooked to Japanese

culture of comics (manga) and animation series (anime), started its third edition with a bang with a Q&A interactive session scheduled with former WWE wrestler Booker 'Booker-T' Huffman.

Other celebrities at the event included American voice actors Dave Fennoy and Adam Harrington, and internationally recognised cosplayer Riddle of 'Riddle's Messy Wardrobe'. Adam gave his sound to Bigby Wolf in the action-adventure 'The Wolf Among Us' and Dave's voice is familiar to 'The Walking Dead' fans.

Among the various attractions such as a gaming and book exhibition, an "otaku" shop for Japanese pop-culture enthusiasts and rows and rows of gamers on their gaming equipment, what really stood out was the vast variety of cosplayers at the event.

Various contestants for the Cosplay competition, in costumes inspired by manga, anime, pop-culture and video-game characters, filled the venue as they immersed into their characters to impress the judges.

One could spot characters from world-famous anime

A cosplayer as Kakashi from 'Naruto'



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such as 'Naruto' or run into a Joker or a Harley Quinn from 'Batman' as they walked through the convention.

For gaming and sports enthusiasts, gaming rigs

venue. There were also karaoke and magic shows at the event. The exhibition was filled with pop-culture content relating to games, movies, comics, and manga titles.

The convention was organised by Tarteel Events and Production Service and IGN Middle East.

IGN Convention organising committee head, Omar Abdulaziz, told DT News of the unexpected turnout at the event, "We are very happy with the

turnout, it was great to see the enthusiasm in the visitors and the smiles on everyone's faces."

"This gives us more motivation to keep moving forward," he added.

"IGN Convention is not only a platform to shed international spotlight on our Kingdom in terms attracting high profile names from the gaming and entertainment industry, but also to ensure Bahrain has the sure capability of organising conventions of excellent standards." Tarteel MD Mohammed Al Muharraqi weighed in.



Two cosplayers as reverse-gender Joker (left) and Harley

COSPLAYERS PHOTO COURTESY: JASON RAO



Cosplayers at the event

COSPLAYER PHOTO COURTESY: JASON RAO



Gamers at the event

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