



NEED SPEED

THE ANNUAL SUBARU ADVANCED DRIVING COURSE (ADC) PLAYED HOST TO MORE THAN 50 CARS FROM BOTH sides of the Causeway recently. The myriad of Subaru vehicles taking part includes, the formidable WRXs, humble Impreza TS', the adventurous Foresters and last but not least, the legendary Legacys. Before you start having thoughts as to whether this is some sort of kungfu flick, you are right. There is a need to assess one's powers in their ability to be in total control of their cars a hundred per cent of the time. Since the birth of the automobile era, man has always claimed to be good drivers. Just how good is good and for some of you, how good is your 'I am a great driver' claim?

Many may find Sean Khoo a familiar name. For those lucky few who happen to know that familiar face, he is the man you seek when you want to be in control of your Subaru a hundred per cent of the time. By courtesy of MotorImage, he was our Chief Instructor for this event. The driving course began with a marathon of theory lessons, kept extremely interesting when

Sean started throwing questions regarding common 'good' driving habits to the participants. Some of the no-nos on the track included answering mobile phones, having lots for harmful projectiles in the car in the shape of drinks bottles, soda cans and the all important umbrella which can turn into a deadly spear in the event of a mishap!

We all laughed but deep down inside we all knew that high performance driving not only requires high performance cars but accomplished drivers too. Thus monkey business was most definitely not tolerated by the fine folks at MotorImage. After the informative three-hour session covering the various aspects of driving position, steering inputs, brake usage, gear changing, Skid control, we once again were reminded that smooth and gentle is fast; always brake in a straight line, slow into corners means fast out, always use full concentration and the don't brake too late, turn-in too soon, overcorrect



skids and not knowing when you've lost it.

We arrived at the Sepang F1 circuit the next day at around 8am in the morning, recharged and ready to battle with oneself and 'others' in some cases. The symmetrical AWD design and the boxer engine layout gives the Subarus a definitive edge when it comes to road holding as well as driver satisfaction when you get things right. Especially, when the over enthusiastic local journalists engaged in a little Forester one-



An Advanced Driving Course may just be what you need to be closer in speed to Schumacher

Words & Photos | TK Pow



STIMULATING

Mr Colin Khong may not fit into your perception as the typical Subaru WRX STi owner. At the prime age of 48, he is a person who had dedicated his life to a career that makes other people's money grow. He is definitely discerning and having driven at least more than half a dozen cars in the past decade. A brief chat with him revealed his passion for the marque. From the rallying heritage to the usefulness of the WRX STi as an everyday car, he likes the rugged and tough appeal found in the car's buff up silhouette. He was equally impressed with the build quality compared to some of the Continental cars he had owned previously.

He felt that the WRX STi was the right choice for him and this ADC that he attended gives him the best opportunity to learn how to drive it well and fully utilise its potential. ■

make 'race' putting on a show for fellow track users. I am sure they were equally surprised at the speeds these Foresters were being punted into the turns.

Instead of just an all out 'race', the track day started off with lots of golden nuggets when it comes to vehicle control that participants received. Some of the nuggets would be high speed lane change, which caught many drivers unaware, that smooth precise adjustment is all it takes to

sail through this round. While others may get over zealous in making a dash for the start/finish line during the slalom, others may for the first time get to feel and see how their cars perform.

All in all, it was a fun, safe, eye opening and most definitely enjoyable experience to know and practice what you and your car can do. Now only if they would handout ADC training certified stickers to give us full bragging rights!