



PRESS RELEASE

CONFIDENT THONGCHAI READY TO STRIKE AT MAYBANK CHAMPIONSHIP MALAYSIA

Kuala Lumpur, February 16: Evergreen Thai star Thongchai Jaidee believes his best years are still ahead of him as he takes aim at the inaugural US\$3 million Maybank Championship Malaysia which starts on Thursday.

The 46-year-old Thongchai, ranked 33rd in the world, has made it clear he intends to hoist this week's trophy despite the presence of 10 other world's top-60 stars, including Danny Willett and Louis Oosthuizen, assembled at the Royal Selangor Golf Club.

Former Asian Tour Order of Merit champions David Lipsky of the United States, Thaworn Wiratchant of Thailand and Jeev Milkha Singh of India will also feature in the newest event sanctioned by the Asian Tour and European Tour.

Thongchai, the only player to win three Asian Tour Order of Merit crowns, said he is still focussed on winning golf tournaments and qualifying for the Olympics in Rio de Janeiro later this year.

"I don't worry about my age. My age is not that important. I always look ahead and I always try to win as many tournaments as I can. I like golf. My life is golf. Without golf, my life is nothing. If I lose or win, it doesn't matter because I always enjoy playing golf," said Thongchai.

"It is my dream to play in the Olympics. I think this is a good time for me to play. If I can play in the Olympics it will be very good for my career and for my country," he added.

After shooting eight birdies in the pro-am at Royal Selangor today, Thongchai is confident he can shoot low numbers when the tournament starts.

"I'm very excited to see the golf course. It is in fantastic shape. It is an old golf course with a lot of big trees and you have to keep the ball in play. It is nice to be playing in a new event. There are a lot of strong players this week and it feels nice to be here," said Thongchai.

The 21-year-old Tabuena hopes to continue his hot form after finishing tied fourth in Singapore three weeks ago and winning a local event last week. After claiming a breakthrough Asian Tour victory on home soil in December, Tabuena is determined to taste success again.

“This is my best start to the year as a professional. But I won’t take this for granted because it only means I have to work harder. I’ve gotten this far and there is no time to relax. The main goal is to get into the Olympics. This week is a good week to do it.

“I don’t have to think about keeping my Tour card this year! I want to win again this year so hopefully I get it done,” said Tabuena.

Gaganjeet Bhullar of India missed out on a chance to win his sixth Asian Tour title in Bangladesh last week but the tied ninth result puts him in good stead to end three-year title drought.

“My game is feeling good. I need to keep everything together. It is just a matter of time before everything comes together. I’m just waiting for everything to click,” said Bhullar.

“It always gives me good momentum when I’m playing in these big tournaments. I played pretty decent last week except for the final round. I had some bad luck in Bangladesh last week with a few bad bounces. But I hit the ball really good. These are the learning phases which people learn in the final round,” he added.

Ends.

About Maybank – Humanising Financial Services

Maybank is among Asia's leading banking groups and South East Asia's fourth largest bank by assets. The Maybank Group has an international network of 2,400 offices in 20 countries namely Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia, Philippines, Brunei Darussalam, Vietnam, Cambodia, Thailand, Hong Kong SAR & People's Republic of China, Bahrain, Uzbekistan, Myanmar, Laos, Pakistan, India, Saudi Arabia, Mauritius, Great Britain and the United States of America. The Group offers an extensive range of products and services, which includes consumer and corporate banking, investment banking, Islamic banking, stock broking, insurance and Takaful and asset management. It has over 46,000 employees serving more than 22 million customers worldwide. (www.maybank.com)

About GlobalOne

GlobalOne (Emerald Evolution Holdings Sdn Bhd) is an executive lifestyle sports promoter and we create sports event ownerships. We specialise in providing the full spectrum in sponsorship event management and have an excellent track record in planning and delivering on PGA European Tour golf events for Malaysia (Maybank Malaysian Open), Singapore (Singapore Masters) and Indonesia (Indonesia Open) since 1999. We have strong relations with sports governing bodies, the media and commercial sponsors and technical partners to deliver on the bottom line. We assist all our clients to create strategic, high-return, best practice sponsorship to provide a

strong, unified vision, across departments and stakeholders, of the broad range of marketing and business objectives that can be achieved through this sponsorship. We also form and maintain strong relationship with players' managers to source the best players. GlobalOne has staged a highly successful and prestigious tournament in Asia – the Maybank Malaysian Open, (2006 – 2015) which is co-sanctioned by the European Tour and the Asian Tour providing the event with Official World Ranking status.

About the Asian Tour

As the official sanctioning body for professional golf in Asia, the Asian Tour leads the development of golf across the region, enhancing the careers of its members while maintaining a commitment to the integrity of the game. The Asian Tour, through its membership of the International Federation of PGA Tours, is the only recognised pan-Asian professional golf tour in Asia. This unique feature positions the Asian Tour at the pinnacle of professional golf in Asia; providing its events with Official World Ranking status. Tour Partners include ECCO (Official Footwear Supplier), FENIX Golf (Official Apparel Supplier), Fuji Xerox (Official Office Solutions Partner), Hilton Worldwide (Official Hotel Partner), Titleist (Official Web Partner) and Rolex (Official Timekeeper). Sentosa, Singapore is the Home of the Asian Tour which also has an office in Kuala Lumpur. Also, visit us at www.asiantour.com , www.facebook.com/asiantourgolf , www.twitter.com/asiantourgolf , www.youtube.com/theasiantour and www.weibo.com/asiantourgolf.

The European Tour

The European Tour is committed to celebrating the game of golf from the origins of the professional game, building a proud history of achievement, sportsmanship and integrity as well as showcasing our diverse global talent and rich landscapes. The European Tour's innovative approach enables us to embrace the world, combining championships of tradition with new tournaments in the cities and countries of the future. The European Tour International Schedule, which from 2009 has incorporated The Race to Dubai, is a thriving global brand which, in 2016, will span 45 tournaments in 26 countries across five continents ; the European Challenge Tour focuses on the up and coming players of the future; while the European Senior Tour provides a new start for champions celebrating their 50th birthday. The European Tour's corporate identity features the iconic silhouette image of six-time Open Champion Harry Vardon who gives his name to The Harry Vardon Trophy, presented to the player who is crowned European Tour Number One and winner of The Race to Dubai at the end of the season.