



PRESS RELEASE

STAR STUDED CAST READY TO LIGHT UP MAYBANK CHAMPIONSHIP MALAYSIA

Kuala Lumpur, February 12: Major champions, EurAsia Cup heroes and Asian Tour Order of Merit winners will ensure a truly memorable beginning for the inaugural Maybank Championship Malaysia next week.

The US\$3 million Maybank Championship Malaysia is the newest addition on the Asian Tour and European Tour Schedules and it has attracted Major stars including Martin Kaymer of Germany, Louis Oosthuizen of South Africa and Darren Clarke of Northern Ireland, who is also the captain for Europe in the EurAsia Cup and Ryder Cup.

An in-form Danny Willett of England, who won in Dubai last week, will also contend for the title alongside Asian Tour Order of Merit winners David Lipsky of the United States, Juvic Pagunsan of the Philippines, Arjun Atwal and Jeev Milkha Singh of India and Thai trio Thaworn Wiratchant, Kiradech Aphibarnrat and Thongchai Jaidee.

Young and talented stars Matthew Fitzpatrick of England, Younghan Song of Korea, who defeated world number one Jordan Spieth in Singapore two weeks ago, Miguel Tabuena of the Philippines and Shaun Norris of South Africa, currently ranked second on the Order of Merit, will also feature at the Royal Selangor Golf Club from February 18 to 21.

Malaysia will be well represented at the Maybank Championship Malaysia as Danny Chia and Nicholas Fung will spearhead the local challenge alongside the big-hitting Gavin Green, Ben Leong, Airil Rizman and recently turned professional Low Khai Jei.

Kiradech, the 2013 Asian Tour number one, will draw on his winning memories in Malaysia three years ago when he aims for a third Asian Tour victory in a country which he calls his 'second home'.

"Malaysia is like a second home to me and the victory in Malaysia in 2013 really helped me achieve the success which I have today. I like coming back to Malaysia because the people are friendly and I have a lot of fans here. The weather is also hot and it suits my game," said Kiradech.

The 26-year-old Thai is among six players ranked inside the top-50 in the Official World Golf Rankings who will feature in the tournament. Placed 13th in the world, Willett is the highest ranked golfer in the elite field.

After finishing fourth in Singapore a fortnight ago, the 21-year-old Tabuena hopes to continue his momentum at the Maybank Championship Malaysia.

“My strong finish in Singapore has given me a great boost in confidence. I’m placed quite high on the Order of Merit at the moment and I hope to build on my momentum in Malaysia. It will be a great event,” said Tabuena.

Jeunghun Wang of Korea, known as one of the best ball strikers in Asia, is one of the most consistent golfers so far this season as he finished tied sixth and fourth place in Singapore and Myanmar respectively. He also contributed half a point in his debut at the EurAsia Cup last month.

“I’m playing very well so I hope to continue my form. It has been a great experience so far for me and I’ve really improved after the EurAsia Cup. I like playing in Malaysia and I’m excited to play at the Royal Selangor course,” said the 20-year-old Wang.

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.

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. Visit us at www.asiantour.com, www.facebook.com/asiantourgolf www.twitter.com/asiantourgolf, www.youtube.com/theasianatour 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.