



MEDIA RELEASE

TOP ASEAN GOLFERS READY TO TAKE ON REST OF THE WORLD

Reigning champion Fraser and more star golfers set for 'Golf like Never Before'

The five ASEAN players selected for the Maybank Championship 2017 were announced today as they get ready to take on some of the best golfers from the Asian and European Tours from 9-12 February at Saujana Golf and Country Club.

As part of Maybank's commitment to support the growth of the game across the ASEAN region, they are giving the top players from five ASEAN countries (who would not otherwise qualify through their ranking on the Asian Tour Order of Merit) the chance to compete at the US\$3 million prize purse event. The players are from **Indonesia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore** and **Vietnam**. The criteria for selection were set out together with the Asian Tour who co-sanctions the event with the European Tour. A player could qualify for selection if they met one of the following conditions:

- Being within the top 95 on Asian Tour Ranking; or
- Inside top 50 of Asian Development Tour Ranking, or
- Have a ranking of 500 or below on the World Rankings, and
- Their position on their local PGA Tours where applicable.

Based on the criteria set, the following players will be competing at the Maybank Championship 2017:

Indonesia

Representing Indonesia will be **George Gandranata** who finished 2016 in 8th position on the Asian Development Tour (ADT) Order of Merit (OOM).

Myanmar

Taking the slot of Myanmar is **Ye Thet Aung** who is number two on the Myanmar PGA





Tour Rankings.

Philippines

Jovic Pagunsan is number one on the Philippines local tour Order of Merit and was 77th on the Asian Tour OOM in 2016. He is also a former Asian Tour number one and the first Filipino to win the prestigious accolade in 2011.

Singapore

Koh Deng Shan was 18th on the ADT OOM last season and will take the spot for Singapore.

Vietnam

Michael Tran will represent Vietnam. He ended the 2016 season in 76th position on the Asian Tour OOM. He is also a previous winner on the ADT.

Tan Sri Dato' Megat Zaharuddin Megat Mohd Nor, Chairman of Maybank said, "We are excited to welcome the five ASEAN players selected to the Maybank Championship next month. I have no doubt these players will take pride in being selected as representing the talents from their respective countries, and will bring their best game, which is very much in line with our commitment to enhance the standards of professionalism in this region."

To add yet more excitement to 'golf like never before', the 156-player field will include the reigning champion **Marcus Fraser** of Australia who will be back to defend his title. Fraser's victory at the 2016 Maybank Championship gave him his second win on the Asian Tour and third on the European Tour. His victory ended a six-year title drought which set him on his way to a strong season where he finished second on the Asian Tour Order of Merit.

Hoping to also continue his fine form into the New Year will be **Rafa Cabrera Bello** of Spain who had a stand-out 2016 with an impressive debut for Team Europe in the Ryder Cup, six top-ten finishes on the European Tour and a second place finish at the UBS Hong Kong Open to kick off his 2017 season.



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Fellow European Team Ryder Cup player **Bernd Wiesberger** of Austria has also confirmed his appearance, as have Asian favourites **Thongchai Jaidee** and **Kiradech Aphibarnrat**. The pair who represented Thailand in the 2016 Rio Olympics are firm favourites in Malaysia, with Kiradech having picked up his maiden win on the European Tour in Malaysia in 2013 while Thongchai won the Malaysian Open back in 2004 and 2005.

Golfing fans coming to support their local players and enjoy the public holiday weekend at Saujana Golf and Country Club will be able to enjoy **FREE ENTRY** on Thursday and Friday.

Note: For media accreditation to Maybank Championship 2017, please submit your application using the following link: <https://goo.gl/forms/F8iouHNQCQYW1H9j1>

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Maybank – Humanising Financial Services

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About GlobalOne



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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 European Tour

The European Tour celebrates men's professional golf on a global stage. In 2016, the European Tour International Schedule features 47 tournaments in 27 countries, all part of the Race to Dubai, the year-long competition which crowns the European Tour Number One at the end of the season, a title claimed in 2015 by Rory McIlroy for the third time.

Since its formation in 1972, the European Tour has witnessed 25 Members celebrate a total of 51 Major Championship titles between them, enjoyed ten Members attaining the pinnacle of World Number One and has celebrated its diversity as players from 36 different countries have won on Tour.

The European Tour also manages the Challenge Tour, which features 28 tournaments in 22 countries in 2016, and the Senior Tour, which features 13 tournaments in nine countries in 2016. It is also the Managing Partner of Ryder Cup Europe, the body which, alongside the PGA of America, administers golf's greatest team contest, The Ryder Cup.

The European Tour broadcasts live coverage of its tournaments to over 490 million homes in more than 150 countries every week, generating in excess of 2200 global broadcast hours for each event. It also enjoys the support of many of the world's leading business brands with Rolex, BMW, Jumeirah Golf Estates, Emirates and Titleist as Official Partners.

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 Sponsor), FENIX XCell (Official Apparel Supplier), Hilton Worldwide (Official Hotel Partner), Titleist (Official Web Partner), Bloomberg TV (Official International Media Sponsor), Bloomberg Businessweek Chinese (Official Business Publication Sponsor) 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:

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Saujana Golf & Country Club

Founded in 1984, Saujana Golf and Country Club offers two 18-hole golf courses namely '*Palm Course*' and '*Bunga Raya Course*'. These courses are exquisitely designed for championship play by the renowned golf course landscaped architect, Ronald Fream Design Group California, USA & Ted Parslow of E&G Parslow, Australia. The two world renowned courses, have been accorded countless international accolades including "The best Championship Course in Asia (Palm Course)" by Asian Golf Monthly 2005 and # 69 "Top 100 Best Courses outside the USA (Bunga Raya Course)" by Golf Digest 2005. Further voted in the World's Top 1000 Golf Courses by Rolex & 6th Toughest Course in the World (Palm Course) by CNNGo.com 2012. SGCC is the 15th Member of the exclusive European Tour Properties, only the third outside of Europe and the first in Malaysia to be an official European Tour Destination. Saujana Golf & Country Club is also nestled alongside the beauty of two hotels, namely The Saujana Kuala Lumpur and The Club Saujana Resort.



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