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EGYPTIAN AND THAI RECITERS ADJUDGED WINNERS

KUALA LUMPUR, Dec 15 (Bernama) -- Egyptian qari and Thai qariah were adjudged champions in their respective sections at the 38th International Quranic Reciters Assembly, here tonight.

Al Sheikh Mekkawi Mahmoud Mohamed beat 28 others to win the men's section at the week-long assembly.

Second place went to Ahyar Rosadi from Indonesia while Abdul Latif H.Daud from the Philippines was third.

In the women's section, the champion was Sainap Abdulromae from Thailand while the second place went to Isnairah Bantayao from the Philippines. Malaysian reciter Hanisah Abdullah was third.

The champion for each section received RM10,000 and trophies while the runner-up RM7,000 and third placing RM5,000. The other participants received a consolation prize of RM1,000 each.

A total of 45 reciters including 17 qariah took part in this year's assembly with judges from Egypt, Morocco, Turkey, Iraq, Libya, Brunei, Indonesia, Thailand and host Malaysia.

Yang di-Pertuan Agong Tuanku Ja'afar gave away prizes to the winners.

Also present were Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and his wife Datuk Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Ali. -- BERNAMA

HAK ABG