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PM's trophy for rally launched

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THE Prime Minister's Challenge Trophy for Persatuan Permotoran Malaysia-organised Asian Cross Country rallies was launched during a Christmas charity dinner held at Putra World Trade Centre, Kuala Lumpur recently.

PPM, formed in December 1995 to promote and organise motoring sports activities, has planned a total of five rallies until the year 2000.

The first in the series is the Silverstone Tire and Rubber Co Sdn Bhd-sponsored Silverstone Asian Cross-Country Rally 1996 which was flagged off at Dataran Merdeka, Kuala Lumpur last Aug 25.

Team Silverstone duo Kok Tsin Yee and David Tham, who emerged tops in Rally 1996, received the trophy four months late during the dinner.

The team manager was Zainal Abiddin Sablee.

The trophy was conceptual when the Asian Rally series was born and the event needed a purpose. And the purpose was to allow Malaysian and international participants to challenge for a trophy that beholds the Prime Minister of Malaysia.

The trophy had to be special; so special that it could not be made on time during the actual running of the event and had to be presented four months after the event was over, said PPM secretary-general Steven Ng.

Together with the trophy, five replicas have been made for the five rallies, one of which was presented to the Team Silverstone duo.

Land and Co-operative Development Ministry secretary-general Datuk Nik Mohamad Zain Nik Yusof officiated on behalf of the Minister Datuk Osu Sukam at the launch of the trophy.

Also present were Silverstone executive director Phang Wai Yeen, PPM vice-president Datuk Mohamad Hilmi Ismail and Datuk Dr Mohamed Mydin Mohamed Musa. A total of 52 local and foreign teams took part in Rally 1996.

Also, there were another 20 vehicles for officials, sponsors, international media and a doctor.

Team Silverstone KMA Isuzu also clinched victories in Class 6 Production Limited, Class 12 Improved Production Limited and Class 15 Open Unlimited.

The competition stages covered a variety of terrains and skills which included overcoming thick jungles, crossing rivers, thick mud, beaches and high speed rally in estates.

Silverstone plans to do a roadshow to exhibit the trophy to all Malaysians as well as get the Prime Minister to bless the trophy during the roadshow.

At the same function Hi-Rev 1st Malaysia International three-day Enduro '97 was launched.

This is an off-road bike event that takes riders to some of the country's most beautiful rainforests, estates, jungles and former logging trails.

Enduro means Endurance, and it is thus a test of riders' skill and physical fitness and participants will be covering a total of 1,500km for which they will need a lot of stamina.

Ng said Silverstone had donated four modified scooters for PPM's 1997 charity programme.

The four-wheeler scooters would be given to four identified disabled candidates. All other donations received would also go to charity.

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