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Champ impressed with Malaysian hospitality

TIGER Woods had a message for Malaysians. Alas, the world's number one was unable to reach the audience due to the faulty PA system that marred the prize-giving ceremony on the 18th green.

Organising chairman Tan Sri Aziz Ismail said that Woods' message to Malaysians was that he was impressed with them.

"You people have been great. Your support have been a great factor. I will treasure my trip to Malaysia," said Woods, after receiving the IGA World Cup trophy and US\$300,0000 (RM1.14 million). He had half the share of the US\$400,000 team prize and US\$100,000 for the individual title.

In total Woods earned US\$1.5 million in Malaysia (RM5.7 million), including the US\$1.2 million appearance fee.

Woods said the crowd was appreciative and clapped at the right time.

"They behaved well. They were a great inspiration to the players."

Woods said he had the luxury of sight-seeing in Malaysia and was impressed with the Petronas Twin-Towers.

"Usually, I fly in time for the tournament. I came in here on Tuesday and managed to go down to the city. It was nice."

Woods also praised the Malaysian hospitality and the country.

Due to the failure of the sound system, messages from the International Golf Association chairman Jonathan Linen and Aziz also went unheard.

Aziz said they delivered the World Cup as promised to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

"Proton, our main sponsors, need special mention. It was they who brought the World Cup here. The police and marshalls handled the 16,000 crowd well."

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