

19/01/2000

Petronas Malaysia Grand Prix wins prestigious award

KUALA LUMPUR, Tues. - The first ever Petronas Malaysia Grand Prix held at the Sepang F1 Circuit last year won the special Formula One Management (FOM) award for the best-organised Grand Prix of 1999 season.

The award was given at the FIA (Federation International de I'Automobile) Gala prize-giving ceremony in Monaco last Saturday.

Bernie Ecclestone, FOM company's chairman, presented the award to Tan Sri Basir Ismail, chairman of the organising committee.

The Sepang International Circuit Sdn Bhd, in a Press statement issued today, said the award was in recognition of the "collective effort that went into eight months' preparation for the staging of the first Petronas Malaysian Grand Prix."

"I am very glad and proud to have been given this outstanding award for our country," said Basir, who is chairman of Malaysia Airports Berhad and Sepang International Circuit, at the FIA function on Saturday.

"It helps us showcase that Malaysia has been able to organise a Grand Prix of quality under difficult circumstances and a lot of `stress'.

"We had no experience, it was our first time ever. Upon request of our Prime Minister (Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad), we started from scratch on a white paper. We had to work very quickly, precisely and efficiently with our team.

"We are now able to run a programme with several races a year, including the FIM World Motorcycle Grand Prix, although our country has no tradition of motor racing."

(END)