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Iranian, Malaysian emerge as Quran recital champions

KUALA LUMPUR, Wed. - An Iranian qari Mas'ud Sayah Gorji and Malaysian qariah Pasiyah Hashim emerged champions at the 43th International Quran recital assembly tonight.

Mas'ud Sayah obtained 90.25 points to beat 33 other contestants, while Pasiyah scored 95.08 points to beat 17 others.

Both Mas'ud Sayah and Pasiyah each received a cash prize of RM15,200, a trophy, souvenirs and a certificate of participation.

The first and second runners-up in the qari section were Abd Ghani Hashim from Malaysia (88 points) and Metasim Metussin from Brunei Darussalam (86.17 points).

In the qariah section, the first and second runners-up were Erry Syahriyah from Indonesia (90.08 points) and Jintana Wongsahag from Thailand (85.25 points).

The second- and third-placed winners took home RM11,400 and RM7,600 respectively.

Consolation prizes were also awarded to 44 other participants who each received RM3,800, souvenirs and a certificate of participation.

A total of 50 people from 33 countries took part in this year's assembly.

All winners received their prizes from the Acting Yang di-Pertuan Agong Sultan Mizan Zainal Abidin of Terengganu at the closing ceremony held at the Putra World Trade Centre.

The results were announced by the chairman of the judging panel Mohd Shahir Abdullah, representing nine judges from seven countries.

The closing ceremony was also attended by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, his wife Datuk Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali and Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Abdul Hamid Zainal Abidin.

The closing ceremony was telecast live over TV1.

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