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Minardi boss for KL Games

MINARDI owner Paul Stoddart will be in Kuala Lumpur for three days from tomorrow and Sports Minister Datuk Hishammuddin Hussein hopes his stay will end with Alex Yoong confirmed as the Formula One outfit's driver for next season.

While Stoddart is coming, at Hishammuddin's invitation, to watch the Kuala Lumpur Sea Games, the minister said discussions will also be held to finalise next year's deal.

Also on the agenda will be to help develop motorsports in Malaysia.

"For the moment, what is confirmed is that Alex will drive in Monza, Indianapolis and Suzuka but we want him to drive in next season's Formula One as well," said Hishammuddin in Putrajaya yesterday.

Yoong, 25, will make his Formula One debut in the Italian Grand Prix in Monza on Sept 16 and Hishammuddin said there is a possibility that Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr. Mahathir Mohamad will witness it.

"The Prime Minister will be in Europe at that time and Minardi have invited him to witness Alex's debut."

Hishammuddin said he will also discuss with Stoddart on how to further develop motorsports in Malaysia during his visit.

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