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Broader base for Malaysian drivers

MALAYSIA made a promising impression in the international karting scene after hosting the Rotax World Finals at the Morac International Circuit in Langkawi last weekend.

Though our local drivers were still unable to match the skills of the more established teams from South Africa, Britain and Australia, what was significant at the three-day event was that it paved the way for local teams and distributors to establish links with their foreign counterparts.

In addition to the presence of Austrian-based kart engine manufacturers Rotax, the annual meet also attracted kart experts, chassis makers, component specialists, teams and drivers whose services are vital to the growth of Malaysian karting.

Though karting came to Malaysia 40 years ago, the international fraternity is anticipating that the market for related products will flourish within the next five years.

Meanwhile, Malaysia's on-track campaign couldn't have made much headway at the top of the 32-driver field as Ferhan Fauzy, Rodney Magness, Mahathir Bob Ngaau and Raja Razman Idris are only filling in for budding karters who are expected to make a more significant impact in future.

For starters, the Malaysian Max Challenge, which selects representatives for the Finals, should create a broader base of young drivers with the addition of junior categories.

Furthermore, the KBS-Ford Championship is also set to flag off its third season this year ahead of the Petronas Malaysian F1 Grand Prix in March.

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