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Sports-Powerboat (Award)

MALAYSIA IS THE BEST ORGANISER FOR THE 2002 SEASON

By: Asan Ahmad

LAUSANNE, Switzerland, March 27 (Bernama) -- Malaysia has won the Best Organiser award for the Formula 1 Powerboat World Championship 2002 series.

This is the second consecutive year that Malaysia has won the award -- the first being for the 2001 series.

The award was presented by the head of the Union Internationale' Motoonautique F1 World Championship International promoter Nicolo di San Germano at the "Award of Excellence for 2002 Season" dinner at the Mines de Sel de Bex here last night.

It was received by Datuk Yahya A.Jalil, the Managing Director of H2O Sports Sdn Bhd, the local promoter and organiser of the Malaysian Grand Prix.

Also present at the dinner was the General Secretary of the Union Internationale' Motonautique (UIM), Regine Vanderkerhove.

Malaysia won the award after emerging tops in all the six categories which were based on: festivity and banquet, press room arrangement, hotel and accommodation, entertainment on water as well as government support, with each category carrying a maximum of three points.

The judges were the international media, team members, UIM, international promoter and IDEA Marketing.

Malaysia which hosted the event for the second year in 2002 can take just pride in the award.

In 2001, the event made its debut in Malaysia when Johor Baharu City was chosen as the venue and at the end of 2001 season Malaysia was picked as the best organiser.

"It was all due to the hard work and commitment of the organising team," said Yahya.

After everything had been said and done, it was the support of the Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad that enabled the country to win the award, he said.

He had been playing a key role in encouraging, supporting and motivating the H2O Sports Sdn Bhd to achieve success.

Dr Mahathir was instrumental and responsible for the whole idea of bringing the premier world class water sports event to Malaysia three years ago, he added.

"I would like to thank the Prime Minister and the government of Malaysia for the support given to us in staging the event," said Yahya.

Yahya said the success was not only a recognition to H2O Sports, but also to all Malaysians especially the Mines Resort City, Seri Kembangan, for providing the venue as well as the main sponsor, Sapura Group and the co-sponsors.

Yahya said the Malaysian leg of the championship was viewed by more than half a million people world wide via live and delayed telecast.

The Malaysian GP which is scheduled for Oct 4 to 5 at the Mines Resort City will be the seventh leg of the 11-leg championship series.

Meanwhile, H2O Sports Sdn Bhd Chairman, Tengku Sulaiman Shah has thanked the Federal Government for its support in staging the championship which was telecast to 82 countries.

"With the influx of foreign tourists and investment I would like to urge the Selangor Government to capitalise on the opportunity of staging a world class event within its shores by stepping forward to supporting this year's event as it benefits the state directly," he said.

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