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Yo clinch Prime Minister's Trophy

By K.P. Waran

IT was a clean sweep by Malaysia Airlines sponsored Yo when it captured all six races in the four-day BMW Royal Langkawi International Regatta to clinch the Prime Minister's Trophy.

Peter Ahern, a veteran sailor who for the past decade has sailed every nook and corner of the waters off the Malaysian coast, and his crew landed the additional prize of a trip to Valencia, Spain to watch the ultimate sailing race of the world - the America's Cup.

Brimming with confidence and with well planned tactical moves, the crew of Yo, having bagged many sailing trophies in the region, had its bow ahead of its competitors as they tacked and jibed around the windward and leeward marks and crossed the finishing line ahead of the rest.

Sonnenkoenig with H. Waimer and A. Schmid leading the team came in second while La Samudra with David Lindahl at the helm came third for the trophy reserved for the racers.

The Langkawi Sports Trophy limited to sports boats was won by Royal Malaysian Navy owned KDP II with Securicor Sontam Express coming in second followed by KDP I.

The Malaysian Multihull Challenge Cup was hoisted aloft by Bob Mott from Australia as his boat the Chameleon outmanoeuvred Charro with Tim Milner at the helm and No Fixed Address with Brent McInnes calling out the orders.

The Commodore's Challenge Cup which was reserved for Cruisers, Live-aboards and Classics saw Lady M, surviving a last minute protest by its opponents for running its engine just before the start, to win the cup.

Blue Jay came in second followed by Sunshine Forever.

The regatta which drew close to 50 boats from all over the world ended with a grand ceremony at the Royal Langkawi Yacht Club which was graced by former Prime Minister Tun Mahathir Mohamad who gave away the main prizes.

(END) Source : New Straits Times