

Malaysia to host world superbike championship round
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Malaysia, which has organised several motorsports events, is to host a round of the World Superbike Championship.

Youth and Sports Minister Datuk Ahmad Shabery Cheek said today the sport would spur government efforts to make Malaysia a hub for motorsports in the region.

ahmad shabery cheek 041108 02Earlier, he heard a briefing from a representative of the organiser, Itramas FGT Sdn Bhd, and FGSport of Italy at his office, here.

Ahmad Shabery (right) said he suggested that the sport be launched next year in conjunction with the "Sports Industry Year" to be observed by the ministry.

Itramas corporate advisor Datuk Husin Mohd Anwar said the company had obtained the rights from FGSport to organise the sport for the Southeast Asian region.

FGSport director Pablo Clabetti noted that by organising the Superbike World Championship in Malaysia, it would further enhance the championship among Southeast Asian countries.

"Currently we have 13 rounds ... 10 in Europe and the other three in the United States, Australia and South Africa. Definitely, we would like to add another round to our racing calendar, especially in Asia, and we are looking at having it at the Sepang Circuit.

"It will give a better opportunity to attract fans from the neighbouring countries. At the moment, we have started the negotiation and we hope that we can reach an agreement soon," said Clabetti.

The Superbike World Championship, also known as the SBK Superbike World Championship, was founded in 1988.

The motorcycles of the championship are tuned versions of motorcycles available for sale to the public, in contrast to the MotoGP where purpose-built machines are used.

Currently, seven manufacturers take part in the championship, which is regulated by the FIM, namely Honda, Yamaha, Kawasaki, Honda, Aprillia, Ducati and BMW.

- Bernama

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