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European Tour legends and ASEAN stars set to lock horns at Maybank Championship

ASEAN category to bolster regional talent and provide global platform for players

KUALA LUMPUR, 14 February 2019 - European Tour legends Thomas Bjørn and Miguel Ángel Jiménez have confirmed their participation in this year's Maybank Championship, adding quality to the marquee field in Malaysia.

The duo's entry also comes alongside Maybank's announcement of a five-strong ASEAN line-up joining the Asian and European Tour-sanctioned event at Saujana Golf & Country Club in Shah Alam, Selangor from March 21-24. These players are appropriately qualified, based on their overall ranking on the Asian Tour, Asian Development Tour and their Official World Golf Ranking.

The ASEAN quintet comprises Myanmar's Ye Htet Aung, Danny Masrin of Indonesia, Singaporean Johnson Poh, and the Philippine duo of Angelo Que and Juvic Pagunsan.

The entries of Bjørn and Jiménez add greater depth to an already formidable field that includes four-time Major Champion Ernie Els of South Africa and 2020 European Ryder Cup Captain Pádraig Harrington.

A 15-time winner on the European Tour, Bjørn is riding the crest of a wave of success, having led Team Europe to victory over Team Asia in the EurAsia Cup at Glenmarie, Shah Alam in January 2018 followed by their famous triumph over Team United States in the 2018 Ryder Cup in France last September.

Jiménez, widely known as the 'most interesting golfer in the world' because of his antics on and off the course, has 21 European Tour titles to his credit.

Together they will bring heightened competition and excitement to the international field in the fourth edition of the US\$3 million tournament.



Commenting on the new additions to the field, Maybank Group President and CEO, Datuk Abdul Farid Alias said, “The inclusion of Thomas Bjørn and Miguel Angel Jiménez is exciting news for golfing fans and will certainly add to the stiff competition expected this year. So too is the ASEAN category, which we see as an extension of our commitment to support the growth of local talent in the region.”

“We hope the opportunity provided to the five ASEAN players in particular will enable them to lift their game further, and inspire even more young talents in the region to aim to be among the world’s best. We wish them and the rest of the field all the very best in the tournament,” added Datuk Abdul Farid.

The Maybank Championship, whose tagline is ‘Where the Best Meet’ is part of the European Tour’s season-long Race to Dubai and will feature no fewer than 15 of the world’s top-150 players. It will also boast star attractions from other nations including Australia, China, India, Denmark, Ireland, New Zealand, South Africa, South Korea, Spain, and Thailand.

Defending champion and reigning Asian Tour Order of Merit champion, Shubhankar Sharma of India, top-ranked Malaysian Gavin Green, Japan’s Ryo Ishikawa, and Thailand’s Poom Saksansin are among the other names who have confirmed their participation in the Championship.

The Maybank Championship, which is Malaysia’s premier golf tournament, is set to have a few more star players added to the line-up in the next couple of weeks or so.

For further details on upcoming events and other information related to the Maybank Championship, please log on to: www.maybankchampionship.com.my

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STAR ATTRACTIONS:

Thomas Bjørn (Denmark)

- A big fan of English football giants Liverpool FC
- Broke into the world's top-10 in 2001, albeit for one week
- Became the first Danish player to represent Europe in The Ryder Cup when he made the team in 1997, winning it that year and in 2002 and 2014
- Captained Europe to victory in both the EurAsia Cup and The Ryder Cup in 2018

Miguel Ángel Jiménez (Spain)

- Won 21 European Tour titles and was a member of the victorious Ryder Cup teams in 2004 and 2010
- Also known as 'The Mechanic' for driving, rather than repairing, high-performance vehicles - has a famed red Ferrari
- Says there is no secret to his longevity apart from "good food, good wine, good cigars, and some exercise"

Ye Htet Aung (Myanmar)

- Turned pro in 2015 after dominating Myanmar's amateur scene with huge success in Yangon State tournaments, the YCDC Cup, and the Monsoon Cup Golf Championship in 2013
- 2013 Southeast Asian Games silver medallist (team)
- Multiple winner on the Myanmar Tour, including IBTC, and Innwa Bank titles.
- Has played in Malaysia both as an amateur and pro

Johnson Poh (Singapore)

- An individual and team silver medallist at the 2009 and 2015 Southeast Asian Games
- Coached by his father Poh and won the 2018 PGM ADT Johor Championship with a 21-under-par 267 total by four shots

Danny Masrin (Indonesia)

- Posted a career-best finish on the Asian Tour as he tied for 12th in 2018 SMBC Singapore Open - finished on 5-under 279
- Has played numerous ADT events, including several in Malaysia

Angelo Que (Philippines)

- Won the Philippine Amateur championship twice prior to turning pro in 2003
- Has won three times on the Asian Tour - 2004 Carlsberg Masters Vietnam, 2008 Philippine Open, 2010 Worldwide Holdings Selangor Masters
- Plies his trade on the Japan Golf Tour these days and won the Top Cup Tokai Classic last September with a 17-under 271 total beating Australia's Lee Won-Joon and South Korea's 2009 PGA Championship winner Y. E. Yang by two strokes in that tournament

Juvic Pagunsan (Philippines)

- Had an illustrious amateur career with victories in the Philippines, Thailand and Malaysia.
- Came close to winning the 2004 Philippine Open as an amateur when he was joint-leader going into the last round - but settled for the runner's-up spot
- Became the first and only Filipino to win the Asian Tour Order of Merit title
- He had four top-10 finishes that year, including second place at the Singapore Open that propelled him to the top of standings

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