

## THAI RIDER THEPLIB BAGS PUERTO PRINCESA ASIAN MOTO DIADEM

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY, PALAWAN – AP Honda Thailand's Arnon Theplib blasted away the competition in the Asian 125/MX2 motos of the 2012 FIM Asia Princesa Motocross Championship which opened here on April 14-15 to clinch the top individual leg honors. Backed by a team of top-notch factory mechanics and an equally adept teammate in the person of sixteen year old Thai motocross sensation Jugkrit Suksripaisan, the defending champion took the holeshot to score runaway victories in the two motos and reset the track's lap record with a blistering clocking of 1:17.84 in moto 1 to send his title-retention bid on a high note.



The winners of the Asian 125/MX2 category pose with FIM Asia officials during the awards ceremony. From left – Stephan Carapiet (Philippines) - FIM Asia President, Aldo Yung (Hongkong) - Jury President, Khaliunbold Erdenebileg (Mongolia) - 4<sup>th</sup> placer, Jugkrit Suksripaisan (Thailand) – 2<sup>nd</sup> placer, Arnon “Turbo” Theplib (Thailand) – Champion, Tomoya Suzuki (Japan) – 3<sup>rd</sup> placer, Kenneth San Andres (Philippines) – 5<sup>th</sup> placer, Akira Goto (Japan) – International Jury Member, Arthur Valdez, Jr. (Philippines) – FIM Asia CMS Director and Clerk of Course.

Suksripaisan and Japan's Tomoya Suzuki wound up second and third respectively with identical scores of 42 points. Suksripaisan however claimed the first-runner up honors by finishing ahead of Suzuki in the payoff moto. Mongolia's Khaliunbold Erdenebileg and the Philippines' Kenneth San Andres came in fourth and fifth to complete the podium cast.

The races marked the ninth straight year that Puerto Princesa was hosting the Philippine leg of Asia's premiere motocross series. The event organized by the NAMSSA was supported by Mayor Edward S. Hagedorn and his constituents from the City of Puerto Princesa, Ms. Ellen Hagedorn of the City's Oplan Linis, City Administrator Atty. Agustin Rocamora, City Sports Director Tony Reyes, Colt 45, Summit Mineral Water, Cobra Energy Drink, Virgin Cola, Shakeys, Polisport, Repsol, Kia Palawan, Department of Tourism, Honda Prestige, Norkis Trading and Emcor Motor Philippines and recognized by the Philippine Sports Commission and the Philippine Olympic Committee.

The event also provided the foreign and local participants the chance to experience the beauty and majesty of the Puerto Princesa Underground River, a UNESCO world heritage site that was recently named to the New Seven Wonders of Nature list in a special trip to the tourist destination that was arranged for them by the city government.

The races of the Asian veterans class were no less exciting and marked with dicing and side-by-side racing from the senior riders. 50-year old Roman Llorente from Iriga City pulled the rug from favorites Junjun San Andres and Siegfred Ornopia who retired after touching bikes in the first moto. With the victory, Llorente earn the distinction of

being the first-ever Asian Veterans champion. Manila's Raymond Espinosa and the hometown bet Bel Basaya garnered 2nd and 3rd places respectively with Guam's Stanley Yasuhiro and Singapore's Wing Kit Kwok taking the remaining podium positions.



**Asian Veterans Class Winners – from left – Aldo Yung (Hongkong) - Jury President, Stanley Yasuhiro (Guam) – 4<sup>th</sup> placer, Raymond Espinosa (Philippines) – 2<sup>nd</sup> placer, Roman Llorente (Philippines) – Champion, Bel Basaya (Philippines) – 3<sup>rd</sup> placer, Wing Kit Kwok (Singapore) – 5<sup>th</sup> placer, Stephan Carapiet (Philippines) – FIM Asia President.**

San Pablo City's Mark Reggie Flores lived up to his billing as the Asia's top junior rider by topping both motos of the Asian Junior 85 category. The defending Asian Junior 85 champion gamely fought off the challenge from his perennial rivals Cabanatuan's Gabriel Macaso and Basilan's Radzie Kallahal, the respective second and third placers. Marikina City's Christian Ramento and Cebu's Earl Jean Brylle Ornoia salvaged the 4th and 5th place honors.



**Asian Junior 85 Winners – from left – Aldo Yung (Hongkong) – Jury President, Christian Ramento (Philippines) – 4<sup>th</sup> placer, Gabriel Macaso (Philippines) – 2<sup>nd</sup> placer, Mark Reggie Flores (Philippines) – Champion, Radzie Kallahal (Philippines) – 3<sup>rd</sup> placer, Earl Jean Brylle Ornoia (Philippines) – 5<sup>th</sup> placer, Akira Goto (Japan) – International Jury Member, Stephan Carapiet (Philippines) – FIM Asia President.**



A much awaited event each year since its maiden run in 2004, this year's races drew an estimated 30,000 spectators during the two race days that likewise featured the races for the 3<sup>rd</sup> leg of the 2012 NAMSSA National Motocross Development Program to live up to its acclaim the country's biggest spectator motorsport event for the year. The second leg of the FIM Asia Motocross Championship will be held on June 9-10 in Ulanbatar Mongolia.

For more details on the FIM Asia Motocross Championship and the NAMSSA Motocross Development Program, please log-on to [www.namssa-live.com](http://www.namssa-live.com) and [www.asiamx.org](http://www.asiamx.org).



Bruce Wilkinson (Australia), the FIM Asia MX Consultant hands over the Asian Nations Cup to Thailand representative Chakrit Rungsuwan during the 2011 Asian Motocross Supercross Championship (AMSC) awards rites that preceded the motos.



AP Honda Thailand's Thossaporn Keerativittayolos receives the 2011 AMSC Manufacturers title for both Asian 125/MX2 and Asian Junior 85 classes.



Xtremeworx President Pocholo Aquino presenting Arnon Theplib (Thailand) and Mark Reggie Flores (Philippines) the respective overall winners in the Asian 125/MX2 and Asian Junior 85 categories of the 2011 FIM Asia Motocross Championship.



Arnon "Turbo" Theplib shows the way to take the berm.



A fraction of the estimated 30,000 spectators that came showed up at the Sta. Monica Motocross Racetrack in Puerto Princesa City to witness the 2012 FIM Asia Motocross Championship.





Prayers before the races.



Jury Meeting



Philippine MX riders



Oath of Sportsmanship



Tomoya Suzuki Advanced Motocross Riding Clinic



FIM Asia President Stephan Carapiet asks pointers from Tomoyasan to impart to the local riders.



Recreation and bonding time



Chow time