

RM500,000 INDOOR GOLF BONANZA!

Inaugural indoor golf tournament offers RM100,000 in cash for professionals and RM400,000 worth of prizes

The inaugural KL International Indoor Golf Open is set to create a real buzz in the golf industry as well as raise eyebrows internationally, as the unique tournament offers a total of RM500,000 worth of prizes including RM100,000 in cash and a state-of-the-art golf simulator valued at RM250,000 as the hole-in-one prize.

The 10-week indoor golf tournament is open to all golfers – professionals and amateurs alike regardless of race, religion, nationality, gender or affiliation – and will commence on February 16 at The Golf Club KL City Centre. Participants automatically become honorary members of The Golf Club KL City Centre for the duration of the tournament, with the qualifying rounds running till the end of March before the final stage tees-off in early April.

The KL International Indoor Golf Open is the brainchild of Hock Toh, the founder of The Golf Club KL City Centre, and will see leading electronic payment service provider E-pay coming onboard as its title sponsor. “We are delighted to have E-Pay come in as a cash prize money sponsor, elevating the tournament to the richest indoor golf championship ever held, open to both professional golfers and amateurs alike. This is testament to the accuracy and realism provided by the PGA Tour Simulators that are exclusive to The Golf Club KL City Centre,” said Hock.

E-pay Asia’s executive chairman Simon Loh is proud to be part of the inaugural indoor open. “Golf is undoubtedly the number one corporate sport and we at E-Pay are excited to



be sponsoring this unique golf tournament which, for the first time ever, is going to be played fully indoors. I believe indoor golf is an excellent vehicle to bring golfing to the masses and to develop the game here in Malaysia. We are glad to do our small part in supporting the industry.”

The one-of-a-kind open already has two confirmed professional entrants – Malaysian number one Danny Chia and Airil Rizman, who will surely spice up the challenge of Malaysia’s, and possibly the world’s, richest indoor golf competition.

Chia was excited at the prospect of playing in the inaugural event. “As a professional golfer, I believe that any support from the private sector, be it in prize money or sponsorship, is good for the game and I think it is great to see companies like E-Pay and The Golf Club KL City Centre coming out with such an innovative idea,” he said.

“Of course, I’d like to win this tournament just like any other tournament I participate in but as this is going to be a first for everyone, I’m not going to write off anyone’s chances of taking home the winner’s cheque and champion’s trophy. As we will be playing indoors, the conditions will surely differ from playing outdoors and this means that everyone has a chance of winning the tournament. Nonetheless, just like the real deal, I feel the tournament will be won or lost on the greens.”

Airil shared similar sentiments and agreed that there’s no reason why professionals will be the favourites to win the indoor open. “The controlled conditions really mean that it would come right down to skill level and a lot less on luck. I feel that any golfer on his day can emerge the winner.”

With the top-25 players in the standings sharing the prize purse, Hock expects the indoor open to attract the nation’s top golfers. “We expect golfers of all levels to turn out in full support of this event. Amateurs who are concerned about their amateur status may choose to waive their right to accept prize money in the indoor open and receive an alternative prize which conforms to the R&A’s Rules of Amateur Status.”

For more information, log on to www.kliigo.com.

Danny Chia and Airil Rizman will tee-off in the inaugural event

