

> WORLDWIDE SELANGOR MASTERS

Ben to defend Worldwide Selangor Masters title

ASIA'S top golfers, including defending champion Ben Leong from Malaysia are expected to tee off in the RM1 million Worldwide Selangor Masters from Aug 5-8, at the Seri Selangor Golf Club in Kota Damansara.

The Asian Tour sanctioned tournament, backed by the Selangor Government is expected to see 156 players – 112 Asian Tour professionals, 36 local professionals and eight wild cards – competing.

"The championship held last year was a huge success. The state government is fully committed to elevating the Selangor Masters and we will continue with our strategic efforts to ensure that it remains as a top international tournament,"

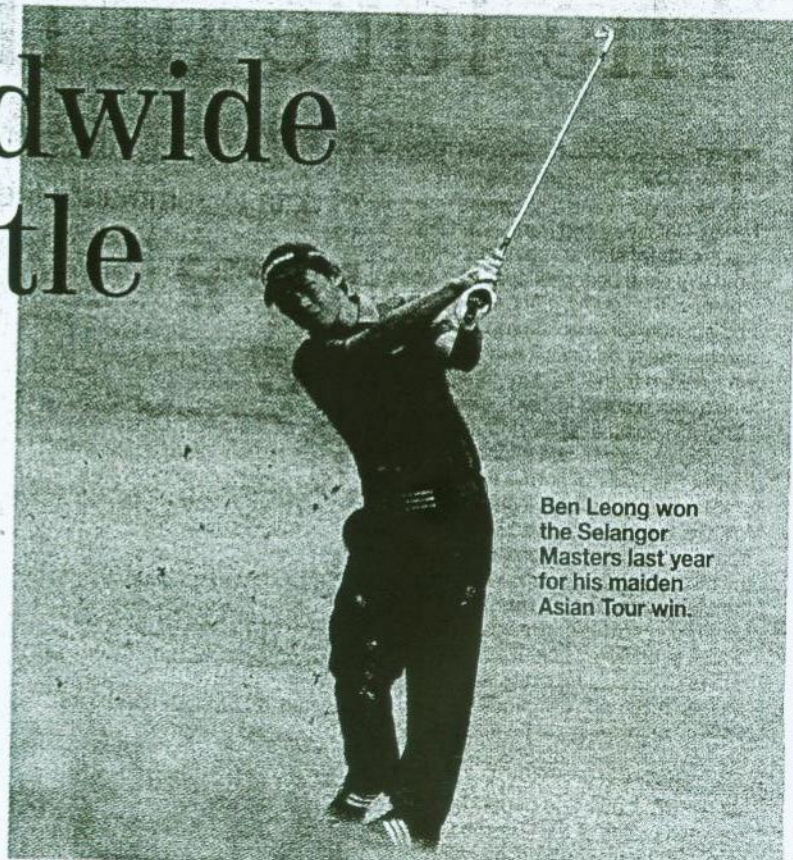
said Selangor State Secretary Datuk Ramli Mahmud at a press conference recently.

Earlier, Ramli signed a sponsorship agreement with Asian Tour's executive chairman Kyi Hla Han and Worldwide Holdings chief executive officer Nor Azlina Zakaria. With the agreement, the state government would remain committed to staging the prestigious championship until 2010.

The organisers have also allocated entries to the Selangor Masters for the winner and runner-up of its inaugural Selangor International Junior Masters. The inaugural competition will be held from July 31 to Aug 2 at the same tournament venue.

"We will be organising the Etiqa Selangor Junior Masters prior to the Worldwide Holdings Selangor Masters. The tournament is open to all junior golfers from around the world. The junior golfers will have a chance to compete with Asia's best. We hope that our very own talented golfers will aspire to attain success, not just on Malaysian soil but also internationally," said Ramli.

Meanwhile, Han said the 36 slots allocated to Malaysian golfers will be determined through their ranking in the Asian Tour and performances in various championships locally and regionally while the wild cards will get to qualify through a one-day qualifying round. - BERNAMA



Ben Leong won the Selangor Masters last year for his maiden Asian Tour win.