

DESARU COAST MULTISPORT FESTIVAL 2022 FEATURING IRONMAN 70.3 DESARU COAST DEBUTS IN MALAYSIA

The three-day multisport festival featuring four distinct events by The IRONMAN Group welcomed an international following

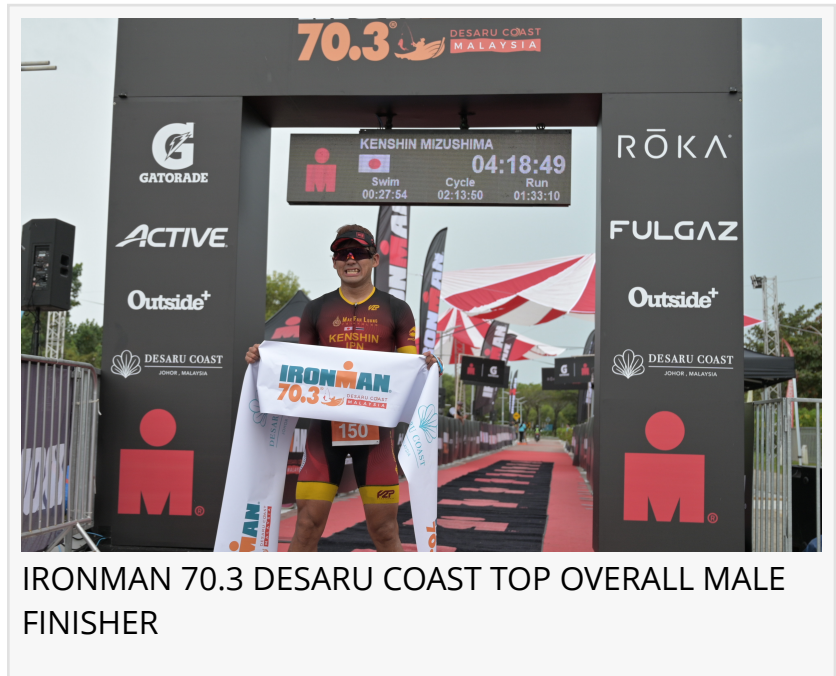
DESARU COAST, JOHOR, MAA, July 27, 2022 /EINPresswire.com/ -- The Desaru Coast Multisport Festival was the first of its kind in Malaysia, where the weekend featured iconic endurance sports events by the IRONMAN Group. This included the IRONMAN 70.3, 5150 Triathlon series, IRONKIDS and the SPRINT distance races.

The Desaru Coast Multisport Festival was also a prime example of how people globally missed live action sports after a two-year absence due to the pandemic, with athletes from all walks of life converging at the idyllic getaway destination.

The festival saw high international participation from up to 50 countries. Malaysians amounted to 47.5% of the total participation, with 980 athletes from all over the country descending to DCMF over the weekend.

Athletes also created records of their own in the headline IRONMAN 70.3 event. 1,475 athletes (including 26 teams) participated on a racecourse flanked by a pristine 17-km coastline, complete with clear ocean waters and white sandy beaches. Male participation dominated the IRONMAN 70.3 with 87.26%, while the female participation amounted to 12.74%.

Japanese youngster Kenshin Mizushima crossed the line as the top overall male finisher with sub five-hour finish (4:18:22). The 21-year-old who resides in Thailand was elated after achieving his personal best.



IRONMAN 70.3 DESARU COAST TOP OVERALL MALE FINISHER

Canada's Elaine Young claimed the top female finisher with a time of 5:18:42, jubilant after crossing the line with her young daughter watching. "I just tried to stay focused to cross the finish line. I'm so happy I managed to finish as champion with my daughter watching," she said.

Teh Kuok Yuen finished as the top male Malaysian as he clocked 4:53:20 past the finish line. The 35-year-old engineer by profession was a resilient force as he battled leg cramps to finish as the top local performer.

Serena Yang claimed the top Malaysian female finisher prize with a time of 5:28:57, achieving her target of finishing below six hours.

Age was never a factor for IRONMAN athletes, and Kazutoshi Miyokawa from Japan is the shining example of that. Miyokawa, who took part in the Male (75-79-year-old) category, was participating in his first IRONMAN race in Malaysia, but he is a veteran in the triathlon scene having taken part in 25 races in total. Miyokawa competed in his first race in 2010 at the IRONMAN 70.3 Japan in the (60-64) category, and went on to take part in his first World Championships in 2012.

Athletes looking to try triathlons for the first time or aiming to build their performance in the sport before taking on the longer distance IRONMAN 70.3, took part in the 5150 Triathlon series and Sprint events. Held for the first time in Malaysia, the 5150 Triathlon series saw over 350 athletes, where athletes took on a 1.5km swim, a 40km bike ride and a 10km run to complete the course.

The Sprint triathlon saw more than 100 athletes complete a 750-meter swim, 20km bike ride and ended with a 5km run. The Sprint event is popular among new athletes with a shorter distance that tests the endurance of budding triathletes.

IRONMAN Asia Managing Director Jeff Edwards was thrilled with the success of this event, "The beauty of the Desaru Coast provided a fantastic backdrop for the return IRONMAN racing to Malaysia. The inaugural Desaru Coast Multisport Festival, featuring iconic IRONMAN events, allowed seasoned triathletes to race competitively and novices an opportunity to experience their first multisport event. Our Desaru Coast hosts provided tremendous support, thanks to everyone who contributed to the effort. We look forward to many future editions.

Desaru Development Holdings One Sdn Bhd were also pleased with the overall reception IRONMAN received. "It has given us, at Desaru Coast, immense pleasure to host this three-day international sporting gala at our integrated destination resort for the first time.

As title sponsor, the successful organisation of the event and the overwhelming participation and attendance has been heartening to see. We are pleased to continue our commitment to host the Desaru Coast Multisport Festival presented by IRONMAN for three consecutive years. In

the years to come, we hope that Desaru Coast and the state of Johor become synonymous with the IRONMAN brand in the international circuit, making sports tourism a collective pillar of success for us," said Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer, Roslina Arbak.

Desaru Coast Multisport Festival is supported by Desaru Development Holdings One Sdn Bhd, Malaysian Tourism Promotion Board, Tourism Malaysia, and Tourism Johor.

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