



PRESS RELEASE

Yoma Yangon International Marathon 2017 Returns with a Record Number of Runners

Yangon celebrates the fifth and biggest edition of the marathon event; Joseph Gitau Kariuki from Kenya win's the men's 42km Full Marathon for the fifth time; Valentine Jepkemoi Serem wins the women's 42km Full Marathon for the second time in a row



Yangon, Myanmar, 8 January 2017 – The fifth edition of the annual Yoma Yangon International Marathon (YYIM) took place this morning in Myanmar's commercial capital, drawing a record number of 8,000 runners who took part across four different categories – 42.195km Full Marathon, 21km Half Marathon, 10km Challenge and 3km Fun Run/Walk.

Jointly organised by Yoma Strategic Holdings Ltd, First Myanmar Investment Company Limited and Yangon City Development Committee (YCDC), YYIM is Myanmar's largest marathon and Yangon's only road race event. Growing in popularity with each year, runners filled with enthusiasm and excitement took to the streets for the marathon and were spurred on by the public across Yangon, as well as at the start and finish line at Thuwunna National Indoor Stadium.

YYIM 2017 Winners

The first of the four race categories, the 42.195km Full Marathon, was flagged off at Thuwunna National Indoor Stadium at 5am by U Tin Maung Tun, Speaker of Yangon Region Hluttaw and U Theim Wai, Chairman of SPA Group, FMI and Yoma Strategic Holdings.

Similar to last year's event, YYIM 2017 saw Kenyan Joseph Gitau Kariuki win the men's Full Marathon for the fifth time in a row, finishing with a time of 2 hours 34 minutes 28 seconds (02:34:28). Joseph Gitau Kariuki has won the men's Full Marathon in each of the five years YYIM has been held since 2013. Coming in second was Myanmar's Ko Thaung Aye with a time of 2 hours 45 minutes 13 seconds (02:45:13). This is the second time he has placed in the top three of the YYIM 42km Full Marathon. Kenta Komatsu from Japan came in third with a time of 2 hours 58 minutes 39 seconds (02:58:39).

In the women's Full Marathon, Valentine Jepkemoi Serem from Kenya took home the title for the second year in a row after clocking 3 hours 07 minutes 36 seconds (03:07:36). Finishing behind her were Kaori Tamada from Japan in second place (04:05:00) and Yin Nwe Soe from Myanmar in third (04:05:57).

The second race category, the 21km Half Marathon, saw Nelson Kiptoo from Kenya win gold with a time of 1 hour 12 minutes 52 seconds (01:12:52). Nelson Kiptoo was a bronze medal winner in last year's YYIM 42km Full Marathon.

The Women's Half Marathon saw Gathingi Hannah Wabera from Kenya finish first with a time of 1 hour 29 minutes 34 seconds (01:29:34).

In the Men's 10km Challenge, Enock Kipchirchir Kigen from Kenya led the field and claimed first place with a time of 33 minutes 55 seconds (33:55) to earn the US\$800 prize money. Ma Thidar Oo from Myanmar came in first in the Women's 10km Challenge, recording a time of 42 minutes 1 second (42:01).

The full list of winners and prize money breakdown, is captured in the table below:

Position	Name	Country	Time	Prize amount
Men's Full Marathon (42.195km)				
1	Joseph Gitau Kariuki	Kenya	02:34:28	US\$2,700
2	Thaung Aye	Myanmar	02:45:13	US\$1,400
3	Kenta Komatsy	Japan	02:58:39	US\$900
Women's Full Marathon (42.195km)				
1	Valentine Jepkemoi Serem	Kenya	03:07:36	US\$2,700
2	Kaori Tamada	Japan	04:05:00	US\$1,400
3	Yin Nwe Soe	Myanmar	04:05:57	US\$900
Men's Half Marathon (21km)				
1	Nelson Kiptoo	Kenya	01:12:52	US\$1,600
2	Samson Tenai	Kenya	01:14:25	US\$900
3	Danilo Brambilla	Italy	01:20:49	US\$500
Women's Half Marathon (21km)				
1	Gathingi Hannah Wabera	Kenya	01:29:34	US\$1,600
2	Nwe Soe	Myanmar	01:30:36	US\$900
3	Jayne Price	England	01:39:19	US\$500
Men's 10km Challenge				
1	Enock Kipchirchir Kigen	Kenya	33:55	US\$800
Women's 10km Challenge				
1	Thidar Oo	Myanmar	42:01	US\$800

The breakdown of registered YYIM 2017 participants is as follows:

Category	International	Local	Total
42km	175	425	600
21km	101	1,499	1,600
10km	124	2,376	2,500
3km	125	3,175	3,300
Total	525	7,475	8,000

YYIM 2017 Race Village

The YYIM 2017 Race Village at Thuwunna National Indoor Stadium was filled with a carnival atmosphere as participants and spectators were treated to fun activities throughout the morning.

They enjoyed music performances by singers Sein Lin Aroma, Ah Moon, Jet San Tun and Phyo Gyi and dance performances by Project K. Balance Fitness also led the warm-up for the 3km Fun Run with actress Warso Moe Oo and energised the crowd with a Zumba dance. Sponsors of YYIM also treated the crowd with activities and freebies.

For more information about YYIM 2017, please visit (<http://www.yomayangonmarathon.com>) or the event Facebook page - <https://www.facebook.com/YomaYangonInternationalMarathon>.

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ABOUT YOMA YANGON INTERNATIONAL MARATHON (www.yomayangonmarathon.com)

As the largest running celebration in Yangon and the city's only marathon event, YYIM aims to inspire athletes and connect communities, both locally and internationally, through a mutual passion for running. Weaving through a unique blend of modern and rustic Yangon, runners are treated to a visual feast making the YYIM a key highlight of the global running calendar.

ABOUT YOMA STRATEGIC HOLDINGS LTD. (www.yomastrategic.com)

Listed on the Main Board of the Singapore Securities Exchange Trading Limited (SGX-ST), Yoma Strategic Holdings Ltd. is a leading business corporation with a diversified portfolio of businesses in Real Estate, Consumer, Automotive & Equipment, and Investments in Myanmar. Together with its partner, the SPA Group, the Group is taking a conglomerate approach to build a diversified portfolio of businesses in Myanmar. The Company was ranked in the top 10% of the Governance and Transparency Index for three consecutive years (2014 – 2016), ranked 17th out of top 100 largest Singapore companies in the Asean Corporate Governance Scorecard 2015 and won the Best Managed Board (Gold) Award at the Singapore Corporate Awards in 2016.

ABOUT FIRST MYANMAR INVESTMENT (www.fmi.com.mm)

First Myanmar Investment Co., Ltd. (FMI) is one of Myanmar's largest public companies with thousands of shareholders and an unbroken track record of profitability and dividend payments since inception in 1992. FMI's current focus is on its "three pillar" strategy of investing in the Financial Services, Real Estate and Healthcare sectors. FMI became the first company to be listed on the Yangon Stock Exchange on 25 March 2016.

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