

OVERALL WINNERS
... Tuaran exponents,
coaches and officials
celebrate after the
Championship.



Tuaran exponents rule

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KOTA KINABALU: Tuaran emerged overall champions of the 38th Sabah Open

Taekwondo Championship that ended at the Kota Kinabalu Sports Complex multipurpose hall in Likas yesterday.

They hauled a total of 13 gold, five silver and nine bronze medals from the three

categories competed in the two-day event organised by the United Sabah Taekwondo Association (USTA).

Besides walking home with the overall trophy, Tuaran also finished top in the junior category (14-17 years old), second

in the open category and third in the super junior category (10-13 years old).

They clinched the overall title in the junior category after winning six gold, one silver and five bronze medals followed by Kota Kinabalu and

Kota Belud in second and third respectively.

Kota Kinabalu won four gold, four silver and three bronze medals, while Kota Belud hauled a total of three gold, two silver and two bronze medals.

In the open category, Tuaran finished second behind winners UMS, who clinched the crown with five gold, five silver and five bronze medals, while Tuaran settled for second with four gold, three silver and three bronze medals, followed by Kota Kinabalu in third after bagging three gold and four silver medals.

Putatan won the super junior crown. They bagged four gold and one silver medals followed by Kota Kinabalu in second with three gold, seven silver and 10 bronze medals.

Tuaran was in third with three gold medals, one silver and one bronze.

Over 500 exponents representing 18 teams, including one from Sarawak took part in the championship.

Tuaran stand-in-coach Josephine Kung said they have been training almost all year round.

"We have been doing our

training for almost every day before we our centralised training for a week prior to the tournament," said the delighted Josephine.

Meanwhile, when met USTA Head Coach Barry Voon said he was delighted with the performances of the State Sukma 2012 squad.

He said seven of the Sukma trainees competed, where six of them emerged champions while the other one lost his battle.

"Only seven managed to compete while the rest had to skip the tournament as they will be involved in the upcoming SPM examination.

"We are quite happy with the performances of the trainees who took part as we can see improvements in them. The next mission for them will be the President's Cup challenge, which will be held sometime in December this year," said Barry.

Youth and Sports Ministry Permanent Secretary Datuk Suzannah Liaw, representing her Minister Datuk Peter Pang En Yin, graced the closing ceremony.

USTA Vice President cum Organising Chairman Robert Kembey was also there.



OPEN CATEGORY CHAMPIONS ... UMS exponents with Barry standing right.