

KUALA LUMPUR - About 220 teams and more than 2500 players across the world will gather in Malaysia for the 33rd World Chinese Basketball Invitational Tournament (WCBIT) this November.

The tournament will be spanning across four consecutive days, starting from November 16 to 19 at Mines International Exhibition & Convention Centre, Selangor. The event gains strong support from the Ministry of Tourism and Culture Malaysia and Malaysia Major Events, a division of Malaysia Convention & Exhibition Bureau (MyCEB). The tournament is sanctioned by Malaysia Basketball Association (MABA).

WCBIT was founded by The Chinese American Athletic Association in 1985. Since then, it has been held annually until today. Last year invitational was the largest in history with a record 5,600 players from 350 teams took part in the tournament held in Heng Dian, China.

In addition, this upcoming tournament will also mark the third Malaysia hosting the event after the installment in 1999 and 2009. Unlike previous events which were being held in Penang, this is the first time it is held in Klang Valley organizing by Malaysia's leading sport event's organizer - NBL Asia Sdn Bhd.

Over the past 30 years, the tournament has been held in US, Australia, Thailand, Philippines, Indonesia, Taiwan and China.

Organizing committee chairman Dato' Yit Lee Kok is proud to present the tournament in Malaysia this year. "The tournament is seen as an annual occasion for local and overseas Chinese to gather and meet up with each other. It also serves the purpose of encouraging healthy lifestyle and promoting local tourism destination.

The tournament will be divided into 13 age groups - four for female category and remaining ten for male category. The youngest one is 35 and the most age group is above 75 years old.

Not only it will be one of the largest sport tournaments host by Malaysia this year, the 33rd WCBIT will also generate significant spillover effect to local tourism industry with visitors from all over the world.