

THE 15th SOUTH EAST ASIA GAMES IN KUALA LUMPUR



Nurul Hada Abdullah, winner of the trophy for the best female athlete.

By Mansoor Rahman

The fifteenth edition of the Games in South East Asia were an immense success in Kuala Lumpur (MAL) last August.

They are still talking about the 15th South East Asia Games which were held in Kuala Lumpur in Malaysia last August and in which nine NOCs participated : BRU, INA, MAL, MYA, PHI, SIN, THA and, after an absence of sixteen years, teams from Vietnam and Laos.

There was praise for the magnificent organization by the Malaysians of the fifteenth edition of these games, which, with 2,355 participants and more than eight hundred officials, were the biggest so far. The response was enormous but the infrastructure was well able to cope. The venues echoed to the theme music "Johan", and

had the leatherback turtle mascot everywhere, and the irresistible movement of the spinning tops, the traditional Malaysian toy that one found everywhere, on walls, flags and in children's hands, added to the festive atmosphere. Thanks to a well-run commercialization programme and a computerized results system, the visitors and spectators left with lots of excellent memories. Of course, one must mention the fine results of the different national teams. Those of the host country but also those of Thailand and Singapore who took the lion's share of the medals. One must also draw attention to the excellent performance of the Vietnamese. But if two names had to be singled out, they would have to be those of two swimmers, Nurul Huda Abdullah from Malaysia, who was undoubtedly the best athlete of the games with five records and ten medals, eight gold and two silver, and Eric Buhain from the Philippines, who took three golds, two silver and two bronze.

