

# BACK TO THE FUTURE

The Rotax Racing family is invited back to race for the ultimate prize again in Langkawi, Malaysia

Text **Jen Wade** Photos **Imran Z. Bagha, Langkawi Tourism & Amprex Press**

There's something rather special happening for the sport of karting in the region of South East Asia. The racing spirit is being reignited with the recent announcement of a brand new international event in Malaysia this December. The countdown has begun with preparations well underway and now the registration has opened from October 1st for the first ever Rotax MAX Challenge Asia Festival 2022. The RMCAF will be hosted by the sea at Morac Adventure Park circuit from December 9th to 11th. This is only the initial stage of a greater future plan to organise the most prestigious annual karting event in this part of the world. Aiming to inspire competitors to return to the place that holds fond memories for so many who have been part of the history of Rotax racing and the RMC Grand Finals. The amazing prizes include five RMC Grand Finals 2023 tickets (location yet to be announced) plus cash prizes totalling almost EUR 70,000 or over RM

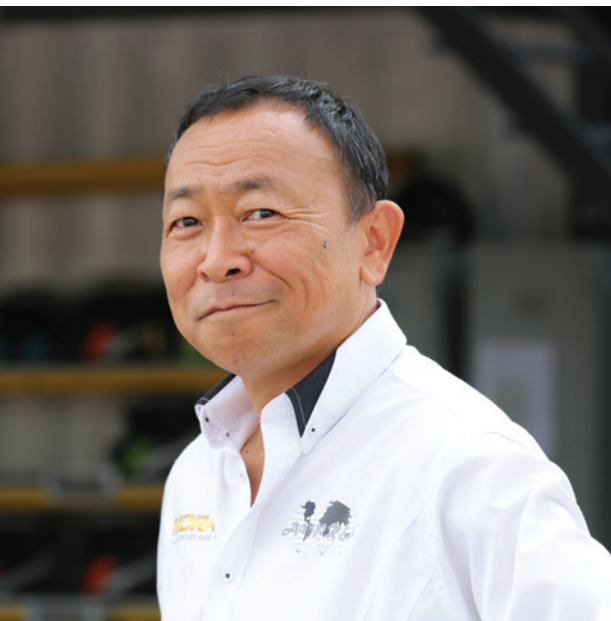
330,000 for the top drivers. There are five Rotax classes being contested and with strictly limited entries, so the chances of winning are even better.











## GENJI HASHIMOTO

CEO AMPREX RACING SERVICES, ROTAX DISTRIBUTOR  
MALAYSIA & RMCAF ORGANISER & PROMOTER

**“SUN, SEA,  
RACE!  
LANGKAWI  
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**T**he man behind the new initiative and present strategy development of Rotax karting within Malaysia is a former well-known Japanese race driver who has extensive experience in motorsport in different areas. He's a businessman with big vision who is not afraid to take a risk in his relentless approach to what he believes in. Genji Hashimoto is the CEO of Amprex International situated throughout Malaysia, Singapore, Australia and Hong Kong, operating in a variety of industries. Originally the name of his race car team founded in 1996, Amprex Motorsport, his portfolio tells the story. At 16 years, Hashimoto raced Superbikes in Japan and some seasons later, with Honda. By age 22 he had switched to four wheels in junior formula and progressed up to Formula 3000 before setting up his own team. The next steps in his professional racing career were Group A Super Touring, FIA GT Japan and China, DTM in SEA and more. Since then, as an entrepreneur he has successfully organised motoring events that include the Dream Cars Motor Show in Singapore, D1 Grand Prix Malaysia Series, Japan GT Championship and Super GT. In addition, has been on the advisory committee for international F1 tracks such as Sepang and Pocheon Korea, plus with his

engineering background, Genji has introduced new innovations to the motoring world as well.

**Tell us about your business venture in Malaysia for karting?**

“Today, the subsidiary company Amprex Racing Services manages two circuits two circuits in Malaysia, as the focus turns to building karting tracks and hosting race events. Since the beginning of this year, we have become the exclusive distributor for Rotax engines and the Rotax Kart product range in Malaysia. As part of this unique opportunity to partner with manufacturer BRP-Rotax in Austria, we are responsible for organising the Rotax MAX Challenge Malaysia and have just completed our maiden series last month. The more recent announcement of the RMC Asia Festival



makes me extremely proud to be taking this initiative to further expand our potential for Rotax racing within the South East Asia region. We are the event organiser and promoter of the RMCAF which will be hosted by my track, Morac Adventure Park, on the island of Langkawi."

**What is the actual concept behind your race event management strategy?**

"We continue to pursue the ongoing development of a new generation of drivers through a localised program and communicate with the teams to ensure we can introduce the necessary changes to bring this to reality. The idea behind our concept is to provide a better focused and professional racing environment. I want to create more entertaining karting events where our participants can race together in a serious competition, but have fun and enjoy their racing. They should all feel welcome, along with their supporters, and we offer them hospitality on track as well. I listen to how drivers want to improve, how they want to have more competition and now I'm pleased to hear that they are looking forward to competing at the RMC Asia Festival later this year with us."

**How is the RMCAF shaping up for its highly anticipated debut?**

"Naturally, we cannot wait to see some fantastic racing at the RMC Asia Festival! We are hoping to entice lots of drivers and team from all corners of the globe to come to Malaysia and share the great experience. With five Rotax classes: Micro and Mini MAX, Junior, Senior and DD2 Masters on the program, we have considered our direct market and importantly, what we need to offer our SEA network to ensure this international event supports our valued customers. Being able to award the first five RMCAF champions with their personal invitation to compete at the RMC Grand Finals 2023 is going to be brilliant on top of our Grand Prix cash prize pool with close to €70,000 (over RM 300,000). We are in the process of refurbishing the complex in Langkawi in preparation for this wonderful event. The awning and garage space will be supplied for all the competitors and there is also the option to rent the Rotax engines and race equipment on location too. For anyone who is interested to register, the entries are now open until November 18th, 2022 and they can contact our team at Amprex Racing Services or visit the official event website for more information."

**What is so special about the Rotax Racing family returning to the beautiful island of Langkawi?**

"This place is reminiscent of what remains in the hearts and minds of the wider Rotax community

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who recall both times BRP-Rotax selected this ideal tropical location to celebrate the RMC champions. The Grand Finals came to Langkawi in 2001 and basically set the standard for what was to follow at that time, then could not resist coming back for the memorable encore in 2005. We want to reignite that spirit in 2022 and in the seasons to follow at the RMC Asia Festival now. As for the circuit itself, the 1,243-metre layout with 21 corners always guarantees to produce quite exciting and competitive racing here in Rotax. Langkawi is breathtakingly beautiful, surrounded by turquoise waters with amazing beaches, landscapes and waterfalls, great cuisine and many activities. The weather is consistent so it will be nice and warm in December for anyone who wants to soak up the sun. Travel is easy from nearby Kuala Lumpur, we have a lot of hotels, rental car services and restaurants. Langkawi Tourism and a list of local partners happily support our Rotax racing family."

Entries are now open and you can find more details about the RMCAF at [www.amprexrs.com](http://www.amprexrs.com)