

Aussie Stephen Paine Triumphs Again at Laguna Phuket International Marathon™ 2009

Australian Stephen Paine took the men's championship title for the consecutive year at the 2009 Laguna Phuket International Marathon, presented by Nike, on Sunday 14 June. Paine crossed the 42k Marathon finish line in 02:39:23. And the women's champion was Swiss Katja Fink, finishing in 03:34:04.

Races at the 2009 Laguna Phuket International Marathon began early Sunday morning with the first group of Marathon runners starting at 4am. This year's event offered two Marathon starts providing runners who may need 4-7 hours to complete the 42k course with a head start. The official race start took place at 5am, seeing the second group of Marathon runners off. The Half-Marathon started at 6am; followed by the 10.5k Run at 6:30am and the 5k Walk at 8:00am. A 2k Kids Run started at 9am. Over 4500 participants from more than

25 countries competed in the races, with the largest number of international competitors coming from Singapore.



**Male Champion
Stephen Paine**



Female Champion Katja Fink

Also participating in the event was 250 Laguna Phuket staff fundraising to support Ban Klong Sai School in Phang-nga province. Proceeds raised will go towards helping to provide better facilities so as to improve health and safety standards at the school.

Eco-marathoner and slow-running advocate Hajime Nishi also joined in the Marathon. With 559 marathons in over 70

countries under his belt, Nishi is renowned among running circles as the founder of the "slow is beautiful" philosophy. The Japanese marathon globetrotter and Guinness World Record holder, who also participated in the Laguna Phuket International Marathon the previous three years, led a group of interested participants over the course, focusing purely on the enjoyment of the race, interaction with spectators and volunteers and taking photos along the way.

Close to 4500 runners participated in the event. A total of 803 runners raced the 42k Marathon, 1050 in the 21k Half-Marathon, 1200 in the 10.5k Run, 800 in the 5k Walk and just over 700 in the 2k Kids' Run.

Winner of the men's Half-Marathon was Swiss Cedric Aspsi Loichat, crossing the finish line in 01:16:47. Kenyan runner Paul Kisumba Wayoke placed second in 01:18:01 and coming in a few seconds behind in third place was Thai Somchoke Jangwangin 01:18:06.

Laguna Phuket International Marathon™
www.phuketmarathon.com

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Second place men's Marathon finisher was Amnuay Tongmit from Thailand, in 03:03:36. Third place in the men's Marathon was Charles Christiansen from Norway in 03:04:56.

Second place in the women's Marathon was Reesa Simmonds from Canada coming in at 03:35:08 and Mamiko Berger from Japan at 03:40:44. The top three female finishers in the Half-Marathon were Patcharee Chaitongsri from Thailand, Singaporean Vivian Tang and Brit Victoria Hill, in 01:25:23, 01:25:35 and 01:29:42, respectively.

For complete race results please visit the Laguna Phuket International Marathon website at www.phuketmarathon.com.

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