

Support For Ice Hockey

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By Y.P. SIVAM - Photo by LAI VOON LOONG

IMPRESSED with the Malaysian ice hockey players' commitment and dedication, Dexion Asia managing director Frank Johnstone has decided to support the team's participation in the Asian Winter Games in Chang-chun, China, from Jan 28 to Feb 4 next year.

Johnstone said the ice hockey players' approach to excellence was in line with Dexion's vision in the industry.

"Dexion is an Asian company dominating the market with world-class storage solutions, designs, products and services. Our values include integrity, excellence and innovation, and we see the same values in the Malaysian ice hockey team," said Johnstone after presenting a RM50,000 sponsorship to Malaysian chef de mission Datuk Lee Hwa Beng recently.

Johnstone had met Kelab Hoki Ais Saga (Khas) officials by chance. He was impressed with their dedication in promoting and developing the game among youngsters.

"They have achieved a lot with little support. They have a big group of junior and senior players and they have been organising a league. And, now, they have overcome the odds to participate in the Asian Winter Games. Long ago, it might have been a mere dream for the officials and players, but today the dream has become a reality.



Lee (in blue shirt) receiving the sponsorship from Johnstone (front row, third from left).

"They are also raising their own funds to participate in the Asian Winter Games. We should be proud of their commitment. Starting from scratch, they had worked towards being accepted to participate in the Asian Winter Games," said Johnstone.

Lee, who is also the patron of Khas, said it was a dream-come-true for the players and officials.

"In the past – about 50 years ago – our badminton players had to fund themselves to take part in international competitions. Now, the ice hockey players and officials are doing the same. The players also have to fork out a certain amounts from their own pockets. To me, that itself is a victory for the team. It shows their commitment and dedication.

"We also have well-wishers like Dexion coming forward to give financial support. We are determined to put up a good show in Changchun," said Lee.

Johnstone also takes time off from his busy schedule to motivate the players.

"We expect the players to return wiser and richer in experience. Upon their return from Changchun, the senior players should take on the responsibility of teaching the younger players in Khas," he said.

A total of 11 teams will feature in ice hockey at the Games. They are Japan, China, Kazakhstan, South Korea, North Korea, Thailand, Kuwait, UAE, Macau, Hong Kong and Malaysia.

Malaysia will open their campaign against Hong Kong on Jan 26 and take on South Korea on Jan 29.

Besides Dexion, other sponsors include Sunway Pyramid, Winter Time (winter wear sponsors), Air China (official airline) and *StarMetro* (official media)