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Press Release

International New Era Chinese Kung Fu Competition

Dennis To and Pierre Ngo unearth new kung fu stars in Malaysia

(Hong Kong – 23 June 2011) *International New Era Chinese Kung Fu Competition* is the highly-anticipated reality show co-organised by TVB and Astro Wah Lai Toi in Malaysia this year. Sponsored by POS Malaysia, the **Semi-final** and **Final** were held successfully on **18 and 19 June** at the **Inner Driveway of Berjaya Times Square, Kuala Lumpur**. The long-awaited results were finally in and **Chai Chwan Wuu** from Malacca was crowned the next Kung Fu Superstar of Malaysia!

With the aim of promoting the growth of wushu, *International New Era Chinese Kung Fu Competition* provides a platform for young kung fu lovers to showcase their versatile talent in Chinese martial arts. Starting 18 May, the tournament which was open to Malaysian aged 18 to 29 had received overwhelming responses. About 60 applicants came to wow the judges with their incredible kung fu performance at the Walk-in Audition on 22 May. Only 10 were qualified for the Semi-final and received intensive martial arts training from the professionals accordingly.

A panel consisting **Dennis To Yu-hang**, world wushu (Chang Quan) champion from Hong Kong, **Pierre Ngo Ka Nin**, red-hot actor of TVB, together with **Ho Ro Bin**, a former world wushu champion from Malaysia and **Shawn Lee**, a 7-time Malaysia sanshou national champion, were entrusted to become the judges for both Semi-final and Final. Their selection criteria were based on the contestants' martial art skill, action choreography, star quality and stage presentation.

Hosted by local artistes Josephine Goh (Jojo) and Bernard Hiew, the competition attracted hundreds of audiences to cheer for the spirited contestants. The rising action star Dennis To shared his expertise in martial arts with the young Malaysians and demonstrated his profound skills of Chang Quan. Pierre Ngo, who is also a kung fu enthusiast, entertained the crowd by performing his action with a long sword as well as presenting the theme song of the popular TV series *No Regrets* during the exciting show.

In the Semi-Final, all participants were required to perform their signature actions that well present their strength. 8 out of 10 were shortlisted for the Final. In Round One, each finalist had to perform a solo routine with a given daily prop. Top 5 contestants with the highest scores then invited their fellows to choreograph a group routine in Round Two which was to test their creativity and team spirit.

Finally, the **champion** trophy and a cash prize of RM3,000 went to **Chai Chwan Wuu**, 23, who has 11-years solid foundation in kung fu and presented a stunning performance of Xingyi Quan in the contest. His younger brother **Chai Chwan Hau**, 18, became the **second runner-up** while the **first runner-up** belonged to **Yoe Yong Yao**, 20. Both the champion and the first runner-up will represent Malaysia at the Grand Final in Hong Kong in September, competing against other overseas rivals for the kung fu stardom and once-in-a-life-time chance to embark on the journey into TVB television production.

International New Era Chinese Kung Fu Competition now airs on Astro Wah Lai Toi (Ch 311) from 18 June to 9 July, every Saturday at 10pm. For more details, visit <u>www.astro.com.my/newerakungfu</u>.



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Top 8 Semi-finalists (in no particular order)

Name	Age	State	Action Performance
Pui Fook Chien	29	Sarawak	Nan Gun (Southern Cudgel)
Chai Chwan Wuu	19	Negeri Sembilan	Xingyi Quan (Form Fist)
Go Boon Siong	23	Malacca	Taiji Jian (Tai Chi Sword)
Ali Arami bin Adzahar	21	Malacca	Jian (Sword)
Ng Kok Koon	23	Malacca	Hou Gun (Monkey Cudgel)
Yoe Yong Yao	20	Kuala Lumpur	Qiang (Spear)
Yap Zheng Hui	20	Perak	Tongbi Quan (Arm-through Fist)
Chai Chwan Hau	18	Malacca	Zui Jian (Drunken Sword)

Top 5 Finalists (in no particular order)

Name	Age	State	Wushu Profession	
Pui Fook Chien	29	Sarawak	Nan Gun, Nan Quan, Nan Dao (Southern Cudgel, Southern Fist, Southern Sabre)	
Chai Chwan Wuu	23	3 Malacca Xingyi Quan, Jian, Qiang (Form Fist, Sword, Spear)		
Ali Arami bin Adzahar	21	Malacca	Taiji, Chang Quan (Tai Chi, Long Fist)	
Yoe Yong Yao	20	Kuala Lumpur	Chang Quan, Jian, Qiang (Long Fist, Sword, Spear)	
Chai Chwan Hau	18	Malacca	Nan Quan, Nan Dao, Nan Gun (Southern Fist, Southern Sabre, Southern Cudgel)	

Top 3 Winners

Award	Name	Age	State	Wushu Profession
Champion	Chai Chwan Wuu	23	Malacca	Xingyi Quan, Jian, Qiang (Form Fist, Sword, Spear)
First	Yoe Yong Yao	20	Kuala Lumpur	Chang Quan, Jian, Qiang
Runner-up		20		(Long Fist, Sword, Spear)
Second	Chai Chwan Hau	18	Malacca	Nan Quan, Nan Dao, Nan Gun
Runner-up				(Southern Fist, Southern Sabre,
				Southern Cudgel)

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Photo Captions



1. The panel of judges consists Shawn Lee, a 7-time Malaysia sanshou national champion, Pierre Ngo, red-hot TVB actor, Dennis To, world wushu (Chang Quan) champion and Ho Ro Bin, a former world wushu champion from Malaysia (from left to right).



2. Action star Dennis To shares his expertise with the Malaysian contestants of the *International New Era Chinese Kung Fu Competition*.



3. Dennis To performs Chang Quan that wows the crowd.



5. Pierre Ngo showcases his talented vocal and won applause.



4. Pierre Ngo who is also a kung fu lover presents long sword performance.



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6. 10 semi-finalists together with hosts and judges strike kung fu poses.



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7. Top 8 are shortlisted for the Final and going to battle with each other.



8. Top 5 finalists compete for the name of next kung fu superstar.



 First Runner-Up Yoe Yong Yao, Champion Chai Chwan Wuu and Second Runner-Up Chai Chwan Hau hold the trophy with excitement (from left to right).



10. All winners take a group photo with hosts, judges, TVB and Astro executives



11. Dennis To and Pierre Ngo praise the potential winners for their enthusiasm and efforts.



12. Pierre Ngo and Dennis To share their experiences in learning Chinese martial arts.



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13. Chai Chwan Wuu stands out above the rest with his proficient kung fu skills.



15. Yoe Yong Yao manages to look calm on stage and takes down the second position.



14. Chai Chwan Wuu displays his creativity in the dramatic group performance.



16. Chai Chwan Hau shows no fear despite being the youngest among all contestants.



17. Both the champion and the first runner-up will represent Malaysia at the Grand Final in Hong Kong.