



Welcome to the 17th Edition of the Penang Heritage City International Chess Festival. This annual festival is the premier event of the Penang Chess Association. The 2025 festival had attracted 2 International Grandmasters, 11 International Masters and 1 Woman International Master. They were among the 265 players from 18 countries vying for the Open and Challenger events. The total prize awarded was RM55,000. The Champion in the Open Category took home RM10,000 while the Challenger's Champion received RM1,300. In addition, we had 98 teams registered for the Penang Chess League Championship. A prize of RM3,000 awaited the Champions. A total of 120 players had registered for the Blitz event. Many thanks to all the players from near and far who took time off to be with us.

Organising Chairperson and PCA President, Madam See Swee Sie noted that the Penang Heritage City International Chess Festival is already well established, and it has already been made a preferred chess venue in the International Chess Calendar. The participating countries at the 17th Edition were Australia, China, Denmark, Hong Kong, Indonesia, India, Iran, Iceland, Japan, Kazakhstan, the Netherlands, the Philippines, Singapore, Ukraine, the United States of America, Uzbekistan, Vietnam and host Malaysia.

PCA was also delighted that 8 OKU players have made a special effort to participate in the Challengers' event. Chess, as we all know, is an inclusive sport for all. The game transcends race, religion, gender, physical attribute, age or background.

The Guest of Honour for the Opening Ceremony was YB. Wong Hon Wai, State Exco for Tourism and Creative Economy. Sports tourism is becoming increasingly popular. During the Opening Ceremony, the full-house auditorium

was treated to a rousing welcome by performances from the Penang Boys' Brigade (2nd Company) and Singapore's Merlion Pipes and Drums.

Mr. Abdullah Hidayat Mohammad, the co-founder and managing partner at Ficus Venture Capital and founder of Chesshub was a special invited guest who shares the same aspirations and vision as PCA – that is to bring chess in Malaysia to the next level. He shared Chesshub's mission for the year 2026. It will include a Malaysian Chess Circuit with GMs and IMs participating in every leg.

Mr. Lau Chong Beng, the Senior Principal of Wesley Methodist Penang (International) was the Guest of Honour at the Closing Ceremony. Our special thanks to Mr. Lau for allowing us to use of the auditorium at Wesley Methodist School Penang (International). It was probably the best venue in the festival's 17 years' history. We look forward to a record participation at the coming 18th edition at Wesley Methodist School Penang. I append below the results of the festival as well as some photos. A Blessed 2026 to all!



Bagpipers leading in the VIPs



265 Players from 18 Countries played in the Open & Challenger's Category



Singapore's Merlion Pipes & Drums & Penang's Boys' Brigade (2nd Company) In Harmony



YB Wong Hon Wai makes the ceremonial first move against FM Ismail Ahmad

Open: Winners' List

Champion	Peng Hongchi	China
1 st Runner-Up	IM Wagh Suyog	India
2 nd Runner-Up	IM Sek Konstantin	FIDE
4 th Place	Biriya Mohmmadamin	Iran
5 th Place	IM Rakhmatullaev Almas	Uzbekistan
6 th Place	FM Lam Chun Yung Samuel	Hong Kong
7 th Place	IM Karthik Rajaa	India
8 th Place	IM Polschikov Alexey	FIDE
9 th Place	IM Shkapenko Pavel	FIDE
10 th Place	FM Ang Ern Jie Anderson	Malaysia
Best Lady Player	WIM Nguyen Thanh Thuy Tien	Vietnam
Best Veteran (>50)	Portugalera Ric	Philippines
Best Veteran (>65)	Lim Kian Hwa	Malaysia
Best PCA Player	AIM Lee Yun Rui	Malaysia
Best OKU Player	Norhayalim Muhd. Farhan	Malaysia



Open Champion: Peng Hongchi of China



YB Wong Hon Wai with the Malaysian Para Team and Guests

Challenger – Winners' List

Champion	Timothy, Gerard Lopez	Singapore
1 st Runner-Up	Saerang, Veyron Fraser	Indonesia
2 nd Runner-Up	Ahmad Fauzi A. Dilfitri Arsyad	Malaysia
4 th Place	Vo, Huynh Thien	Vietnam
5 th Place	Lin, Dominicus Winston	Indonesia
6 th Place	Peh, Yi Feng	Malaysia
7 th Place	Ghanbarpour Mahan	Iran
8 th Place	AIM Fam, Yii Fui	Malaysia
9 th Place	Lopez De Anda, Edgar	USA
10 th Place	AIM Nguyen Truong Bao Tran	Vietnam
Best Lady Player	Saravana Sukunthan, Shevallini	Malaysia
Best Veteran (>50)	Chan Kok Leong	Malaysia
Best Veteran (>65)	Yeop, Mat Zaki	Malaysia
Best PCA Player	Saravanan, Keertieshvar	Malaysia
Best OKU Player	Mohd. Halil, Nur Feiqha Maulad	Malaysia
Best U18 Player (B)	Lai, Xin Hong	Malaysia
Best U18 Player (G)	Gayatri, Titah	Indonesia
Best U15 Player (B)	AFM Muhd. Haziq Haikal	Malaysia
Best U15 Player (G)	Kuan, Rhe Anne	Malaysia
Best U12 Player (B)	AFM Davin, Ronald	Indonesia
Best U12 Player (G)	Wong Kangning	Malaysia
Best U10 Player (B)	Nova, Ayer Juyal	India
Best U10 Player (G)	AIM Then, Hillary Rocca	Indonesia
Best U8 Player (B)	Muhd. Aariz Daniel	Malaysia
Best U8 Player (G)	Alisya Zehra Mohd. Izuan	Malaysia



Chess transcends all barriers!



Congrats Best Women Player, WIM Nguyen Thanh Thuy Tien!

Penang Chess League Winners' List

Champion (Overall)	Cerebrill Marcuschess
1 st Runner-Up	Penang Chung Ling Titans
2 nd Runner-Up	Coachric & Friends
4 th Place	Blok Medan
5 th Place	Iran
Board 1 Prize	IM Poh Yu Tian
Board 2 Prize	Karthik Rajaa
Board 3 Prize	Allan Parson
Board 4 Prize	Muhd. Haziq M. Nasruddin
Best Penang Team	L.O.N.K
Best State Team	Perak Star
Best Company/Govt.	AC Global Chess
Best College/Univ.	USM Tupai
Best Ladies Team	Queen Buddies
Best Family Team	Battle Chess
Best Alumni Team	Free Pieces
Best OKU Team	Small Pawn
Best U18 Team (Boys)	Kedah Boyz
Best U18 Team (Girls)	Who Knows?
Best U12 Team (Boys)	Pensel Squad
Best U12 Team (Girls)	Blue Flat Berries
Best U9 Team (Boys)	4K
Best U12 Team (Girls)	AC Global Princess
Best FIDE Unrated	The Indestructibles

The Blitz Championship Winners

Champion	Biriya Mohammdamin
1 st Runner-Up	GM Nguyen Van Huy
2 nd Runner-Up	IM Poh Yu Tian
4 th Place	IM Mohd. Nurbarishah Shaik
5 th Place	IM Rakhmatullaev Almas



VIPs at the Opening Ceremony



Chess unites people from various backgrounds in a shared intellectual pursuit.



The Blitz Wizards



Many Thanks for your Dedication and Commitment!



Mr. Lau Chong Beng hits the Gamelan Gong at the Closing Ceremony