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Karuizawa International

Karuizawa, Japan



Dates: Dec 18 - 21, 2014

Purse: \$2,500,000 yen

Teams: 0 (0 qualifiers)

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News

World Curling Tour expanding reach into Asia Pacific

Source: WCT Release

Karuizawa, Japan - The World Curling Tour is expanding the reach of competitive curling into Asia by launching the Asia Pacific Curling Tour, with the debut event being the Karuizawa International in Japan. 

The Asia Pacific Curling Tour is the regional face for the World Curling Tour with up to 10 events planned for next season in Japan, expanding the competitive reach of the sport to give more teams opportunities to play at the elite level. The Asia Pacific Curling Tour hopes to expand into Korea, China and New Zealand in future seasons as discussions are in place to add new events.

The Karuizawa International is the first event, with future events opening the season in May 2015. The Asia Pacific Curling Tour will feature a mix of development tour and elite tour events to offer teams new opportunities in the sport.

"With the emergence of the Asian countries in International curling, we see this as an important step in the growth and exposure for the sport," said WCT Operations Manager Gerry Geurts.

"There are already 10-15 teams competing in Canada on the World Curling Tour from Korea, Japan and China and regional tour events closer to home will help create a stepping stone for more of these teams to compete in the upper echelons of the sport."

The partnership developed between Geurts and Hiroshi Kobayashi of Japan, who has worked hard to build curling in his home country.

"The Asia Pacific Curling Tour will be very good for teams in Japan and Asia," added Kobayashi, President of Sporting Canada Co., Ltd and Operations for the Asia Pacific Curling Tour.

"We hope to see bigger events in Asia that will bring teams from Canada and Europe to help make our teams better."

The Karuizawa International plays this weekend, offering an expanded purse that has attracted Olympic Gold Medalist Jennifer Jones and 2010 World Champion Kevin Koe from Canada, World Champions Binia Feltscher of Switzerland and World Championship Bronze Medalists Peter De Cruz (Switzerland) and Anna Sidorova from Russia.

The Karuizawa International offers a first prize of 1,000,000 yen (~\$10,000 CDN) for each division and continues with the Championship Finals held on Sunday, December 21st.

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