



**FIM ASIA**  
SUPERMOTO  
CHAMPIONSHIP 2018



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**PRESS RELEASE**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **Cornish claims maiden pole start for Manila round of the FIM Asia SuperMoto Championship 2018**

*Local Philippine ace Kenneth San Andres secures second row start*

**Manila, Philippines, 8 September 2018** – Day two of the second round of the FIM Asia SuperMoto Championship 2018 commenced with a packed schedule of activities. Taking place at the iconic Philippine landmark of the Quirino Grandstand in Manila, the day's proceedings kicked off with the third of the free-practice sessions followed by the official timed practice ahead of qualifying. Rounding off the day's action was the SuperChrono shootout session for the top six riders from the qualifying session.

Carrying the momentum of his double win in Thailand, it was Denmark's Simon Vilhelmsen who took top spot in the afternoon's 20-minute qualifying session following a hard-fought battle. Topping the timesheets with a 41.068s, the Dane was able to fend off the charge from Malaysia's Mohammad Khairi Zakaria who managed a strong session to clock in a time of 41.409s just four-tenths off of Vilhelmsen's time. Coming in with the third fastest time was Muhd Habibullah or Gabit as he is more popularly known, with his time of 41.487s. Also progressing into the SuperChrono session was local ace Kenneth San Andres after his strong qualifying performance, finishing the session in P4 ahead of championship contender, Lewis Cornish from the United Kingdom qualifying fifth fastest. Also booking his berth into the top-six shootout was Malaysian youngster, Ahmad Danial Haiqal who managed a solid time of 41.991s.

After an action-packed qualifying session, the top six riders still had it all to do as they battled it out once more in the 20-minute SuperChrono shootout, vital in determining their starting grid positions for Sunday's Moto1 race. Utilising a different strategy from the previous session, it was Cornish who claimed the pole position start with a scorching lap time of 40.055s, narrowly beating out Vilhelmsen by one-hundredth of a second. Scoring another front row start for Sunday's Moto1 race was Gabit, after he too went under the 41second mark with a time of 40.956s. The second row of the grid will be headed by Mohammad Khairi in P4 ahead of San Andres in P5 and Ahmad Daniel in P6.

Commenting on his maiden pole position start of the season for Sunday's Moto1 race, Cornish notes, "I was really happy with the qualification. It was a close fight between Simon and me just like in Bangkok at the last round with less than 0.1 second separating us. The qualifying lap was maybe not the hardest but it was the smartest. My aim was to not make any mistakes by being perfect with my line choice and staying reserved and going full gas when I can!"

"Following yesterday's practice sessions, there was plenty of action on the second day of action at Round 2 of the FIM Asia SuperMoto Championship here at the Quirino Grandstand in the heart of metro Manila. All the action from the qualifying and SuperChrono sessions today is definitely a prelude to what is going to be a thrilling day of racing tomorrow! Overall, all the riders have made significant improvements and showed tremendous fight as they battled it out for their start positions for tomorrow's races. There is definitely plenty for racing enthusiasts and fans to look forward to tomorrow!" commented Andrew Ching, Chief Executive Officer of E-Plus Global Sdn Bhd, promoter and organiser of the FIM Asia SuperMoto Championship.

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The Moto1 and Moto2 races will take place on the third and final day of action on Sunday, 9 September. Both races will be streamed live through its OTT channel partners, twenty3.tv and twowheels.tv. More information on the FIM Asia SuperMoto Championship is available at [www.supermotoasia.com](http://www.supermotoasia.com) and at [www.facebook.com/FIMAsiaSupermoto](https://www.facebook.com/FIMAsiaSupermoto).

Working with its local entity, E-Plus Event Management Philippines Inc, and local partner, Plug and Play 360 Corporation, the second round of the FIM Asia SuperMoto Championship 2018 at the Quirino Grandstand in Manila is fully sanctioned by NAMSSA and is supported by Presenting Partner, the Philippine National Parks Development Committee (NPDC), the Philippine Department of Tourism (DOT) and the Philippine Moto Tourism Council (MTC).

The FIM Asia SuperMoto Championship 2018 is promoted and organised by E-Plus Global Sdn. Bhd., and is sanctioned by the Fédération Internationale de Motocyclisme with the support of Federation Of Motor Sports Clubs Of Thailand (FMSCT), National Motorcycle Sports and Safety Association (NAMSSA), Ikatan Motor Indonesia (IMI), Motor Sports Singapore (MSS) and Automobile Association of Malaysia (AAM).

### **SuperChrono Results**

Pos	Rider	Bike #	Team	Best Time
1	Lewis Cornish (GBR)	8	Team KMTR Asia	40.055s
2	Simon Vilhelmsen (DEN)	64	Team Del Michelin Racing	40.063s
3	Muhd Habibullah (MAS)	27	RND Motorworks	40.956s
4	Mohammad Khairi Zakaria (MAS)	32	Johor Racing Team	40.973s
5	Kenneth San Andres (PHI)	12	Philippine SuperMoto Team	41.507s
6	Ahmad Daniel Haiqal (MAS)	99		41.588s

### **Qualifying Results (Selected)**

Pos	Rider	Bike #	Team	Best Time
1	Simon Vilhelmsen (DEN)	64	Team Del Michelin Racing	41.068s
2	Mohammad Khairi Zakaria (MAS)	32	Johor Racing Team	41.409s
3	Muhd Habibullah (MAS)	27	RND Motorworks	41.487s
4	Kenneth San Andres (PHI)	12	Philippine SuperMoto Team	41.767s
5	Lewis Cornish (GBR)	8	Team KMTR Asia	41.793s
6	Ahmad Daniel Haiqal (MAS)	99		41.991s
7	Makoto Arai (JPN)	101	Autorace KYT Global Racing	42.155s
8	Ivan Harry (INA)	33		43.708s

### **Issued by**

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### **ABOUT THE FIM ASIA SUPERMOTO CHAMPIONSHIP**

Launched in 2016, the FIM Asia SuperMoto Championship enters its third season in 2018 with five rounds in Thailand, Philippines, Indonesia, Singapore and Malaysia. Featuring riders who will compete on a track that alternates between off-road hard-packed dirt track, motocross-style obstacles and paved road-racing asphalt tarmac. Growing from strength to strength since its inception, the Championship remains single-minded in its objective toward

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the continued development and growth of SuperMoto in the region in addition to contributing to the active promotion of motorsports in Asia.

### **2018 FIM Asia SuperMoto Championship Calendar**

Round 1	11 to 13 August	Thailand Circuit, Nakhonchaisri (Thailand)
Round 2	7 to 9 September	Quirino Grandstand, Manila (Philippines)
Round 3	26 to 28 October	Kupang City, East Nusa Tenggara (Indonesia)
Round 4	23 to 25 November	KF1 Circuit, Kranji (Singapore)
Round 5	30 November to 2 December	Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia)

### **ABOUT E-PLUS GLOBAL SDN BHD**

Incorporated in 2004, E-Plus Global Sdn Bhd is a full-fledged one-stop event management company. The multi award-winning agency is the brainchild of a dynamic and creative team that provides innovative and creative ideas in both planning and executing events for clients, both locally and internationally.

Recognised as one of the top and more experienced events management agencies in the region, the company continually seeks to elevate industry practices through its unique, creative and innovative ideas. In recent years, it has expanded operations to five other countries in the region and currently operates in Hong Kong, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, and Thailand.

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