



## **Around 5000 people turn out to compete in the F1 Simulation Race championship at SmarTone-Vodafone Pit Stop Challenge**

**(Hong Kong, 22 May 2005)** The finals of the SmarTone-Vodafone F1 Simulation Race were held today at the Main Concourse of Ocean Terminal in Tsim Sha Tsui. From 100 finalists, the grand final winner was Ko Ka Chun with the fastest lap time of 1:34.462. The race offered Hong Kong F1 enthusiasts a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to pit their skills against the best drivers in town on a special F1 simulator.

Interest in the SmarTone-Vodafone F1 Simulation Race has been high. Qualifying sessions were held at IFC 2, Olympian City 2, Newtown Plaza and Ocean Terminal from 3–20 May with about 5000 people trying their hand at the special SmarTone-Vodafone F1 simulator. The participants were faced with the challenge of setting the fastest lap time overall on the F1 simulator.

Today's competition was the final lap in a grand prix qualifying circuit that travelled to four high-traffic venues throughout Hong Kong. The contestants recording the top 100 lap times overall from the qualifying period reached this morning's final.

From there, the field was further winnowed to the top eight fastest times in a special morning qualifying session. These accomplished drivers were then invited to participate in the grand final session in the afternoon. From this the ultimate winner was Ko Ka Chun with his time of 1:34.462. The champion and runners-up won the F1 memorabilia like a racing helmet, quarter size steering wheel personally signed by Michael Schumacher and Ferrari F1 model car.

Afterwards, the eight grand finalists were invited to join a team of celebrities includes Daniel Wu, Stephen Fung, Denise Ho, Niki Chow, Stephy Tang and Ron Ng to participate in another Pit Stop Challenge, this time changing the front tyres on an authentic Ferrari F1 car. The participants and celebrities were split into two teams each tasked with changing the front tyres. The contestants received a champagne and Ferrari bags for their speed and teamwork. The first team to change their tyre successfully was captained by Daniel Wu, Niki Chow and Ron Ng.

The SmarTone-Vodafone Pit Stop Challenge was also open to Hong Kong's leading corporations to demonstrate their team skills. On Saturday 21 May, 24 leading corporate teams have put their teamwork to take the challenge of changing the front set of tyres. The three winning teams are American Express, Giordano International Ltd and Jones Lang Lasalle.

These are some of the ways SmarTone-Vodafone brings customers closer to what matters to them.

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