

4
deserts
TM

racing
theplanet.
®
#MORETHANARACE



PRESS RELEASE:

Hong Kong's Wong Ho Chung and Angela Zaeh from Germany win the Gobi March 2018 in Mongolia

Hong Kong ultrarunner Wong Ho Chung, 31, has won the Gobi March 2018 in Mongolia, his first win in the 4 Deserts Ultramarathon Series. Wong, a physical fitness instructor for Hong Kong's Fire Services Department, crossed the finish line of the 250-km multi-stage race in 20 hours and 34 minutes. He finished 58 minutes ahead of Japan's Wataru Iino, 38. Fellow Japanese competitor Takuya Wakaoka, 34, was the third fastest runner in this year's 15th edition of the Gobi March. This is the first time for an all-Asian podium at a RacingThePlanet / 4 Deserts Race.

San Francisco-based German runner Angela Zaeh, 38, was the fastest of the female competitors, finishing in a time of 25 hours and 10 minutes, which gave her an overall finishing position of fifth, just behind Briton William McMillan, 35. Second in the ladies' competition was Canadian Isabelle Sauve, 42, with Japan's Chizuru Inoue, 45, finishing third. This race was notable for 33% of the field being women which is particularly high in this sport.

First held in 2003, the annual Gobi March celebrated its 15th edition by heading to Mongolia. The six-stage race began on July 29 and over the past week, more than 200 competitors from 50 countries followed the footsteps of Genghis Khan in the beautiful Mongolian wilderness. Today's final Stage 6 saw competitors finish the race in Karakorum, the 13th and 14th century capital of Genghis Khan's Empire and now a UNESCO Heritage Site.

In addition to the overall and women's race, the Gobi March (Mongolia) also hosted a team competition. Hong Kong's Never Give Up Team comprised of Chan Chung-Yin (Edward), Alice Lee and Lee's 19-year-old autistic son Calvin Tsang took home team honours, impressing the entire camp with their teamwork and tenacity. Tsang was also the youngest competitor in the Gobi March, while the race also featured two competitors who were in their 70s -- 73-year old Yoshiaki Ishihara of Japan, an original member of the 4 Deserts Club who completed his 16th RacingThePlanet / 4 Deserts Race at the Gobi March 2018 and 75-year old Lee Moo Woong of the South Korea, who, like Ishihara, is a member of the 4 Deserts Club and in Mongolia completed his 11th RacingThePlanet / 4 Deserts Race. Combined with his second-place finish in the Namib Race in Namibia earlier this year, Wong's Gobi March victory puts him in strong contention to become the 4 Deserts Champion for 2018 – although Iino and Wakaoka will also be in Antarctica for The Last Desert vying for a chance at the title. Wong is



also one of 14 competitors attempting the 4 Deserts Grand Slam -- completing the Namib Race, the Gobi March, the Atacama Crossing in Chile and The Last Desert in Antarctica within the same calendar year -- and is sure to be among the favourites for September's Atacama Crossing.

During the Gobi March (Mongolia) 2018, competitors have been challenged on a course that has taken them from the race start in the ruins of Khar Bukhiin Balgas Palace through Mongolia's vast and varying terrain, traversing grassland, fields, sand dunes, rocky mountains, gravel tracks, river crossings, climbs and descents. A self-supported race where competitors carry or wear everything they need for the race with the exception of water and a place in a tent or traditional Mongolian Ger, the competitors also encountered weather challenges throughout the race, as well as The Long March, the much-anticipated 70-km / 50 mile journey from the Mongolian steppe to the UNESCO listed Orkhon Valley area.

"This week has been the perfect celebration of the past 15 years of the Gobi March," said Mary Gadams, Founder of RacingThePlanet. "When the Gobi March first began in 2003, the spirit of the race was immediately clear and the passion for the Gobi March remains today. We are delighted to have been able to host this year's edition in Mongolia and would like to congratulate all of our winners, finishers and participants on a competitive and challenging week."

The Gobi March is part of RacingThePlanet's 4 Deserts Ultramarathon Series which is the most prestigious footrace series in the world, ranked by TIME Magazine as the "World's Top Endurance Races" and profiled on BBC, ESPN, NatGeo, CNN, ABC, and NBC Sports. Each multi-stage race takes place over seven days in remote, harsh and stunning locations which are rich in culture.

