



Malaysian teen to train with Cardiff

> e-Cosway Japan's sponsorship makes avid footballer's dream come true

BY LLEW-ANN PHANG
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PETALING JAYA: Fifteen-year-old Malaysian Tam Sheang Tsung who is based in Japan will be fulfilling his dreams of playing with a European club come March.

However, he may not be the only one to do so, as Cardiff City owner Tan Sri Vincent Tan has pledged to sponsor other budding footballers with potential.

Tan was represented by eCosway Japan President Sean McDonald who presented the sponsorship to Sagan Tosu FC president Ushijima Youtaro in Tokyo yesterday.

eCosway Japan – a subsidiary of the Berjaya Group of Companies' Cosway – said it is thrilled to help pave the way for Sheang Tsung's foray into professional football and is also looking to sponsor young talents from other sports clubs across Japan, including the Kyoto and Tokyo precincts, as one of its ways to give back to the community.

Tan took over Cardiff in mid-2010 when it was tipped to be promoted to the Barclays Premier League. The club currently stands at second position in the Championship table – the second tier of league clubs.

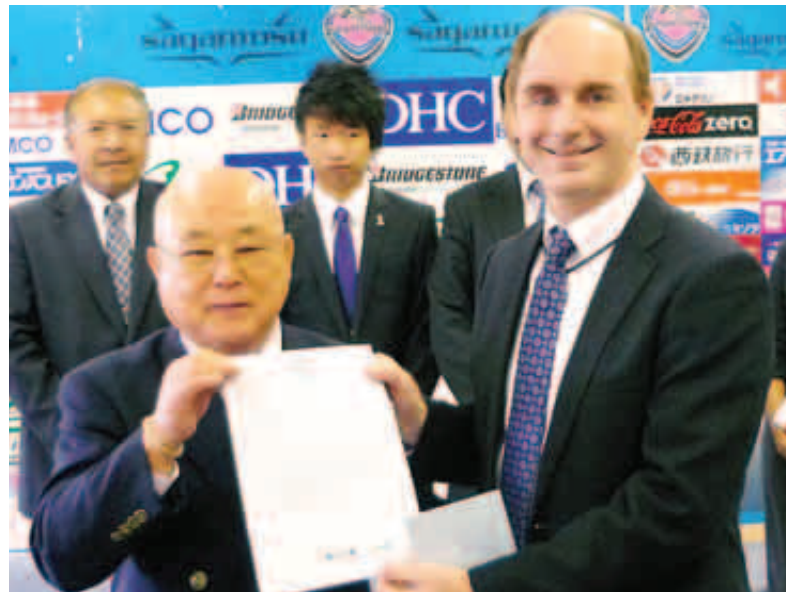
"We never know, one day we may have a Malaysian playing in the English league," said Tan.

"This experience will boost his (Tam's) football career and enable him to be exposed to professional football," he said.

"The boy has great potential and we are happy to support his ambition. The club believes in giving opportunities to young people, what more a Malaysian," Tan added.

In a phone interview, Sheang Tsung, through his father Tam Yun Tong said: "I am very proud to be given this opportunity and I thank Tan Sri for this chance to train at Cardiff."

Sheang Tsung, or Yoshimune as he is known in Japan, has been in the spotlight since February 2007 when he



Youtaro receives the sponsorship from McDonald while Sheang Tsung and Malaysian ambassador Datuk Shahrudin Md Som (left) looks on.



became the first foreign player to play for the Narimasugaoka Primary School in Japan.

His skills caught the attention of talent scouts when he captained the school team and won a silver medal in the West Tokyo Tournament.

He was selected to play for the Yokohama FC Under-15 team in March 2009, making him the first Malaysian to be recruited into Japan's J. League.

Sheang Tsung was also a participant in a three-month course at Brazil's Sao Bernardo FC in 2009.

Last year, he signed with J. League Division 2 club Sagan Tosu and was named youngest footballer in the Japanese professional league history.

The Chelsea fan is the son of

Malaysian restaurateurs Yun Tong and his wife Ang Hui Chin who are responsible for the operations of Rasa Malaysian Cuisine Restaurant in Tokyo for the past 16-years.

Before he flies off to Cardiff, Sheang Tsung will be training with his club in the island of Kyushu.

Yun Tong told *theSun* his son had requested for Tourism Malaysia to set up banners and promote Malaysia at the event yesterday, because Sheang Tsung thinks this is his responsibility and duty as a Malaysian.

"He needs to work harder to reach greater heights," Yun Tong said of his son.

eCosway Japan was launched in December 2010 and McDonald said the response has been overwhelming.

"eCosway plans to have its first 20 stores in Japan opened by the end of February," he said.

The company has opened over 1,700 stores worldwide including Australia, Hongkong, Korea, Malaysia, Taiwan and the United States.

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PRESS DIGEST

Schools hire and pay for own teachers

BY KONG SEE HOH
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SOME Chinese primary schools in the federal territory have to dig into their coffers to hire temporary teachers as the Kuala Lumpur education department is slow to fill more than 100 vacancies in these schools.

A headmaster who did not want to be named told *Sin Chew Daily* that in the past, schools were

provided with forms to hire temporary teachers but this year, the department has taken over the responsibility of sourcing temporary teachers.

He said the shortage of teachers is the biggest problem facing Chinese primary schools in the Federal Territory, pointing out that his school has four vacancies.

"Before schools re-opened, the Education Ministry had directed all schools to get everything ready, including making sure there were enough tables and chairs, so that lessons could be conducted on day one.

"Now more than a week into the school term, the vacancies for teachers have yet to be filled. We cannot do without teachers, we are in a dilemma," he said.

On schools taking it upon themselves to hire temporary teachers, he said the boards and parent-teachers associations not

only have to come up with the funds but also face the problem of disposing of these teachers once the department sends in the new recruits.

"I have pursued the matter with the department. The officials said they understood our plight but were helpless as they have to wait for the posting of teachers by the ministry."

He said education is one of the national key results areas (NKRA) but the fact that some 2,000 graduates of the Teacher Training Course for SPM Leavers (KPLSPM) are twiddling thumbs while schools are waiting anxiously for vacancies to be filled raises questions over the efficiency of the Education Ministry.

Deputy Education Minister Datuk Dr Wee Ka Siong said he did not know the real situation and would comment only when he has all the details.

Crackdown on online gambling

BUKIT Aman has ordered a crackdown on online gambling, directing state police to make sure all illegal outlets are closed by tomorrow, *China Press* reported yesterday.

The report, quoting sources, said police are going all out to seize gaming machines and computers found to be used in online gambling.

It is learnt illegal outlets have been warned to stop their activities by Jan 15 or face police's raiding squads.

The report said police have been cracking down on online gambling for some time especially in Selangor.

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