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The Tanjungpinang Cup Boat Race in Czech Republic

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The fight for the Tanjungpinang Cup once again erupted at the Vlatava River in Prague last Saturday and Sunday (11 to 12 September) in the form of the 2010 Prague Dragon Boat Race organized by the local dragon boat club in the city.

Seventeen squads from the Czech Republic, Germany and the Indonesian communities in Prague took part in the competition to win the coveted Tanjungpinang Cup which was contested for the second

time.

Each team consisted of 12 rowers and 1 leader on a Tanjungpinang's traditional boat from the island of Riau and they have to paddle along a 600-meter stretch along the Vlatava River which split the city of Prague in the Czech Republic.

Gurindam and Pantun were two special boats in the race. The two boats were given by the city of Tanjungpinang to the Prague Dragon Boat Club and they became the focus of attraction by the other teams, not only because they were competing to win the trophy from the Indonesian Embassy but also because they were different from other boats in the race. These two boats were bigger and heavier and they require a different rowing technique from other boats in the competition. The Tanjungpinang Cup this year was taken by LPG team from Germany, whilst the Bazos Draci from the Czech Republic took second place and last year's champion, the Energie Drachen from Germany, grabbed the third position.

Besides competing for the Tanjungpinang Cup, professional and amateurs rowers at the 2010 Prague Dragon Boat Race also compete for other trophies such as the International Cup (professional), the Agilda Cup (professional), Company Cup (amateur), Autumn Cup (amateur and professional), The Qu-Yuana Cup (individual), the Super Final Cup (amateur and professional) and the Special Women Race (women only).

Indonesia was represented by the Indohusband and Indowife team consisting of Indonesian and Czech rowers. The Indohusband team managed to grab several positions in different races such as the second place in the Corporate Cup and the third in the 'pulling the boat race', the fourth position in the Super Final and the seventh position in the Autumn Cup, meanwhile the Indowife team took the fourth position in the Special Women Race.

To further enliven the event, the Sekar Melati dance studio and the Kintari foundation performed a number of traditional dances such as the Bajidor Kahot, Yapong, Kayau and Condong (source: the Indonesian Embassy in Prague).