



Press release
March 1st 2016

BMW Motorrad International GS Trophy Southeast Asia 2016, Day 3. **Memorable mountain motorcycling from Mae Hong Son to Mae Sariang.**

München/Mae Sariang. Today all 2016 International GS Trophy participants were treated to the ride of their lives, with over 250 kilometres of some of the best trails and roads Thailand has to offer, combined with two challenging special tests that took the 'friendly' competition into its third day.

With a significant distance to cover, the day started early with a pre-dawn striking of camp, and a 7am departure in preparation for the longest day in the saddle so far. Conditions were initially cool but quickly warmed up as the teams climbed their way to around 1,500 metres, while riding the ridge-lines from one mountain range to another on a mix of clay, dust and sandy surfaces, that are more typically associated with closed-course enduro racing.

The first Special came after about 75 kilometres of off-road heaven through national parkland, overlooking high-altitude tiered rice fields and tackling numerous switchbacks and narrow tracks along the way. The Special took place in an area of giant Bamboo trees, and competitors first had to guess how many bamboo stalks were growing in a certain area. Then, a team member needed to climb a tree around four metres high to find a hidden message, the contents of which needed to be delivered to their Marshal. Finally, the team had to guess how many metres above sea level they were, without looking at their GPS units!

Another 90 kilometres of the remotest Thailand unfolded before the competitors' eyes as they rode from village to village – much to the amusement of the locals, who spilled out onto their streets as the GS Trophy circus passed through, with screams of delight from school children, friendly waves from market traders and enthusiastic welcomes whenever the riders stopped to take in the special atmosphere.

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A wide river crossing and the welcome shade of a native forest helped keep everyone cool as temperatures climbed well into the 30s en route to the second Special, where teams enjoyed a speed and braking exercise. Accelerating hard over 70 metres, then stopping the front wheel inside a marked box sounds easy, but when the adrenaline and pressure of competition kicks in, it proved to be harder than it looked for many. Not so for Team South Africa, who were clinical in this exercise.

Following this Special was a dream section of tarmac for road riders – and in this case off-road enthusiasts – as the 90km undulating final liaison twisted and turned all the way to the next bivouac at Mae Sariang, offering far-reaching views into the valleys below and mountains beyond. Refreshments on arrival at the camp in the Salawin national park never tasted so good.

It was a truly memorable day for all competitors, but perhaps none more so than the new countries and their teams experiencing the GS Trophy adventure for the first time. Among these are Team China and Team Southeast Asia, who gave us their first impressions.

Tommy Lee Boon Jun, Singapore, Team Southeast Asia:

“I think we are enjoying the GS Trophy maybe a little too much! We were very serious initially but then we made lots and lots of mistakes, so we decided instead to enjoy the event, because it is a great-great event. It's great to meet so many people with the same interest, and with very similar riding capability, so we ride together well. It's hugely enjoyable.”

Liang Wen-Hao, China:

“We are enjoying the GS Trophy very much. I've personally owned a GS since 2006, so this is a wonderful celebration of the past ten years for me, I knew I must come to this event. With all the riders from around the world, it's so special, it's every GS rider's dream.



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“As a team, we chose to ride here, rather than fly, it was four days to get here, but that helped unify us before we started. We love Thailand as well, all the people are smiling, the people in China call Thailand ‘the smiling country’, it’s a special place.”

As is traditional at the Trophy, all points were totalled after the evening meal and there was quite a change in the leaderboard – thanks in part to the results of the teams' photo competition that was massively supported worldwide and won by some margin by Latin America. As things stand after day three, Team South Africa have consolidated their leading position from yesterday, with Latin America and Germany 17 and 22 points behind respectively.

Catch all the latest updates online at gstrophy.com and also via YouTube, Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

Results BMW Motorrad Int. GS Trophy 2016, Day 3:

1	South Africa	124 pts.
2	Latin America	107 pts.
3	Germany	102 pts.
4	Brazil	98 pts.
4	CEEU	98 pts.
4	UK	98 pts.
7	China	95 pts.
8	Argentina	89 pts.
9	Mexico	86 pts.
10	France	85 pts.
11	USA	84 pts.
12	Russia	80 pts.
13	Canada	75 pts.
14	Italy	67 pts.
15	International Female Team	59 pts.
16	Alps	58 pts.
16	South East Asia	58 pts.
18	Japan	51 pts.
19	South Korea	49 pts.



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The BMW Group

With its three brands BMW, MINI and Rolls-Royce, the BMW Group is the world's leading premium manufacturer of automobiles and motorcycles and also provides premium financial and mobility services. As a global company, the BMW Group operates 30 production and assembly facilities in 14 countries and has a global sales network in more than 140 countries.

In 2015, the BMW Group sold approximately 2.247 million cars and nearly 137,000 motorcycles worldwide. The profit before tax for the financial year 2014 was approximately € 8.71 billion on revenues amounting to € 80.40 billion. As of 31 December 2014, the BMW Group had a workforce of 116,324 employees.

The success of the BMW Group has always been based on long-term thinking and responsible action. The company has therefore established ecological and social sustainability throughout the value chain, comprehensive product responsibility and a clear commitment to conserving resources as an integral part of its strategy.

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