LUKE LANDRIGAN CLAIMS VICTORY!

27-year-old Filipino-Australian Luke Landrigan claimed victory over 17-year-old Filipino Marvin Abat after a 30 minute duel in 4-5 foot surf at the 2nd annual Aloha Boardsports Longboard Pro Invitational contest at the seaside surf town of La Union north of Manila, the capital city of the Philippines on the 28th of November. Presented by Global Industries and Nike 6.0, the two day event brought together 32 of the best longboarders to compete for the record first prize of 100,000 pesos (USD 2,200) and what amounts to the Philippine National Longboard title 2009.

Landrigan's smooth style and ability to complete a wide variety of aggressive maneuvers were the key to his win. "Marvin is young but has been really focusing on his longboard surfing, so I knew I just had to choose the best waves and not make any mistakes," said Landrigan after the final. "I'm so stoked to have won this event here, especially at my home break and against all these talented surfers."

Runner up Abat was obviously delighted to be on the podium for the biggest paycheck of his young career, 50,000 pesos (USD 1,100). "I can't believe I made it into the final! I've been longboarding a lot last two years, and shortboarding as well, but somehow I just like longboarding better because of the different moves I can do and in many kinds of waves. Finishing well here makes me like it even more," he said with a grin. Certainly this runner up finish will further encourage the talented young man, and the future of Filipino longboarding looks very bright indeed.

Head Judge Arya Subyakto from the Indonesian Surfing Championship Tour was very impressed with the level of surfing displayed throughout the weekend, stating "This is my first trip to the Philippines and I'm delighted to have been part of this event. Its great to see how committed the crew here are to longboarding and that they are performing so well."

The weekend's activities began on Friday with surf lessons for the media in the morning and then an official judging seminar in the afternoon. Two days of competitive surfing followed, with conditions ranging from 2-3 foot waves on Saturday up to the occasional 5 foot set as the swell increased on Sunday. The event wrapped up on Sunday evening with the awards presentation, live bands, fire dancer performances, and Indo-Board competition, and a raffle, the cash proceeds of which will go to the victims of the recent flooding disasters that occurred in the area last month.

Aloha Boardsports Longboard Pro Invitational Results:

1. Luke Landrigan
2. Marvin Abat
3. Benito Nerida
3. Jeff De La Torre