

Excerpt



Hotelier Ong Beng Seng at Formula One announcement.

S'pore F1 on the starting grid

[SINGAPORE] After months of intense speculation, it was finally announced yesterday – Singapore will host the Formula One Grand Prix from 2008 for five years, with the tab to be picked up by the race promoter Ong Beng Seng, the Singapore Tourism Board, and the hotels in the vicinity of the proposed route.

The cost of staging an F1 race can be up to \$150 million, said Minister of State for Trade and Industry S Iswaran at a press conference yesterday.

“Given the broader economic benefits from an F1 race that do not accrue to the race promoter, there is a case for commensurate support from public funds,” said Mr Iswaran. “STB will therefore co-fund about 60 per cent

of the cost of the event from the Tourism Development Fund.”

Flanked by Mr Ong and STB chief executive Lim Neo Chian, he added that since such an event also benefits Singapore hotels, which can double or treble their room rates, they will contribute via a special F1 cess on room revenues.

“The F1 cess will be for a limited period of around seven days around the race,” explained Mr Iswaran. “It will be tiered so that track-side hotels which will benefit from the highest increases in room rates will pay a higher rate, and those farther away will pay a lower rate.”

The cess will not be more than 30 per cent and is expected to raise an average of \$15 million to \$20 million a year.

NOVEMBER 27, 2007

Move over Sesdaq,
here comes Catalist

DECEMBER 31, 2007

Singapore telcos in race for
exclusive rights to Apple iPhone