



**AFF  
MITSUBISHI  
ELECTRIC  
CUP 2022**



# **#BeTheGameChanger**

20 DECEMBER 2022 - 16 JANUARY 2023

[www.AFFMitsubishiElectricCup.com](http://www.AFFMitsubishiElectricCup.com)

## **Tournament Programme**



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# MESSAGE FROM ASEAN FOOTBALL FEDERATION

Welcome to the inaugural AFF Mitsubishi Electric Cup 2022.

It gives me great pleasure to herald in the new era of ASEAN football together with our new title sponsor, Mitsubishi Electric Corporation. The AFF Championship has always been the crown jewel of ASEAN football and we are delighted to see the return of the tournament this year as the AFF Mitsubishi Electric Cup 2022.

The past couple of years have been tough for everyone in the region, but as we slowly emerge from these challenges in 2022, we take pride in knowing that we have become stronger and more united as a football community, and are able to face any obstacles as long as we stay connected and support each other in everything that we do. I am confident that in unity, we will continue to grow and expand this beautiful game that we dearly love.

As we launch the 14th edition of the tournament, we are delighted for the opportunity to return to the home-and-away format – bringing exciting matches back to our loyal and passionate fans who have been eagerly waiting to see their favourite teams in action in their respective countries.

I wish to express my sincere appreciation to all our Member Associations, the AFF Secretariat and our commercial partner SPORTFIVE who have worked tirelessly to ensure that we are able to host and deliver

all 28 matches in 11 countries successfully. It is only through the concerted efforts of all our stakeholders that the AFF Mitsubishi Electric Cup continues to grow from strength to strength every year.

On behalf of the AFF and our Member Associations, I would like to thank our title sponsor, Mitsubishi Electric Corporation, all our official sponsors and broadcast partners for their steadfast support as we embark on a new chapter in AFF history.

To our fervent fans around the region, we can't wait to celebrate the brilliance of ASEAN football with you in person and hope you will bring your loudest voice to cheer on your national teams once again.

I wish all the participating teams the best of luck, may the best team win!



**Major General  
Khiev Sameth**

*President of the ASEAN  
Football Federation*





# **AFF MITSUBISHI ELECTRIC CUP 2022**

**When new challenges arise, we push forward.  
Because perseverance leads to growth.**

**We're here to move forward with all of Southeast Asia.  
To build better lives, a more sustainable society, a brighter tomorrow.  
We're here to build happiness.**

**It's time for a new chapter to begin.**

**It's time to blaze trails and embrace the dawn of a new day.**

**Together, we can build better.**

**Mitsubishi Electric is the title sponsor of  
the AFF Mitsubishi Electric Cup 2022.**

## **Together, we can build better.**



TITLE SPONSOR

[www.MitsubishiElectric.com/en/aff\\_mecup/2022.html](http://www.MitsubishiElectric.com/en/aff_mecup/2022.html)



# MESSAGE FROM MITSUBISHI ELECTRIC

It is our great pleasure to welcome you all to the AFF Mitsubishi Electric Cup 2022.

Our relationship with the ASEAN Football Federation (AFF) started in 2021 when we became the official supporter for Building Solution Services. From this year, we have been given the opportunity to become the title sponsor of the championship and we are very honoured to be part of this prestigious event going back more than 25 years.

For over 50 years, Mitsubishi Electric has supplied various products for industrial and commercial use as well as home electronics to the Southeast Asian countries. These include, air-conditioning and ventilation products, elevators and escalators, factory automation systems, components and operation systems for railways and trains, and much more.

As the countries in this region continued to grow, our business grew as well. Today, we count more than 30 companies across the countries in this region. For our customers, our suppliers, our employees and football fans across the region, this sponsorship is our commitment to continue to grow together.

As Mitsubishi Electric, our goal today is to provide solutions for social challenges through our business. We are contributing to the realization of a vibrant and sustainable society through the technology and products we provide here in Southeast Asia and around the world.

We are looking forward to building a better future together with the ASEAN Football Federation for all the people in Southeast Asia.

We sincerely hope that the AFF Mitsubishi Electric Cup 2022, the most exciting and lively football event in the ASEAN region, will be enjoyed by everyone.



**Kunihiko Seki**

*Corporate Executive  
Chief Representative,  
Asia Pacific Region  
Mitsubishi Electric  
Corporation*



**MITSUBISHI  
ELECTRIC**

*Changes for the Better*



## Supporting the dreams of future heroes

In addition to becoming title sponsor of the AFF Championship, Mitsubishi Electric has launched a series of CSR programs for children in Southeast Asia to enrich the lives of the communities through football. The Football Clinics provide children with a fan filled day with learning from and playing with local football legends and inspire them to chase their dreams. Outstanding youths around the region will be also selected to participate as Player Escort Kids and enjoy match day festivities. The company believes that these philanthropic activities will inspire children to dream big in the future and thus contribute to develop a vibrant and sustainable society.



*Move forward!*



*It's fantastic!*



*My dream is to become a National football player!*





Today, I learnt how to play with the team!



Bring it!



I hope this can happen again every year.

I enjoyed seeing kids having fun in the activities conducted.



It is very good opportunity for kids!

Keep the ball!



## Mitsubishi Electric in Southeast Asia

As an integrated electronics and electrical manufacturer, Mitsubishi Electric Group aims to expand its business within the fast-growing Southeast Asia region, as well as contribute to the further development of the region by providing a wide range of products and services such as air conditioning systems, home appliances, building solutions and factory automation systems, as well as transportation systems and water treatment systems.



# STEP FORWARD AND WIN



**TIGER  
TRADE**

**TIGER BROKERS**  
NASDAQ LISTED



# MESSAGE FROM SPORTFIVE

Welcome to a new era of ASEAN football - the AFF Mitsubishi Electric Cup 2022.

First, I would like to welcome our new title sponsor, Mitsubishi Electric, to the ASEAN Football Federation (AFF) family. I am excited about the new beginning represented by this partnership and believe that the aspirations of both AFF and Mitsubishi Electric will be enhanced as we all embark on this journey to develop and grow football in Southeast Asia.

Sportfive is very proud of our long-standing partnership with AFF which has seen such positive growth for football in this region over so many years. I wish to express my thanks to AFF, especially President Major General Khiev Sameth, and all the Member Associations for your trust and support as we chart the future of ASEAN football together.

Like all fans of the tournament, we are delighted to see the AFF Mitsubishi Electric Cup return to the home-and-away format this year and we are grateful to the AFF and its Member Associations for their hard work in bringing this to fruition. It is only through the strong collaboration between all the stakeholders that we are able to deliver this tournament and the trusting working relationship we have together with the AFF staff led by General Secretary Winston Lee is a key element to our joint success.

As the region emerges from the impacts of the pandemic, we honour the determination of our communities to be game changers on and off the field.

Inspired by them, we are proud to have worked with AFF and Mitsubishi Electric to give back to our local communities by bringing the Trophy Tour to five cities and introducing a new Corporate Social Responsibility initiative comprising of Football Clinics and a Player Escort programme for children across the region. We hope these experiences will ignite the children's love for football, inspire them to dream big and become football legends themselves in the future.

An event of this scale is never possible without the unwavering support from our commercial partners. Our deepest gratitude to all our official sponsors, broadcasters and media partners for embracing the region's biggest football tournament as we strive to showcase the passion of the region.

To all our fans who have waited patiently to see their teams in action up close and personal, the time has finally come to rise up and cheer for your teams. We hope everyone will enjoy all the upcoming matches and take away many inspiring and unforgettable memories from this first and historic AFF Mitsubishi Electric Cup 2022.



**Malcolm Thorpe**

Managing Director,  
SPORTFIVE  
Southeast Asia



## TOURNAMENT HISTORY

# A GLORIOUS PAST, AN EXCITING FUTURE



Just over quarter of a century after winning the first AFF Championship in Singapore in 1996, Thailand returned to the Lion City to lift their sixth title at the 2020 edition. The years in between saw one of the world's most passionate and colourful international tournaments become a highlight of the Southeast Asian sporting calendar.

The first-ever AFF Championship match in 1996 featured one of ASEAN's greatest players scoring an 89th-minute equaliser as Fandi Ahmad cancelled out K. Sanbagamaran's opening goal to ensure hosts Singapore earned a 1-1 draw with Malaysia in Kallang.

Singapore ultimately exited in the group stage as Thailand and Malaysia advanced before winning their respective semi-finals. And it was Kiatisuk 'Zico'

Senamuang who was the hero in the final as his early strike proved enough for the War Elephants to be crowned inaugural champions of a competition that had caught the imagination of the region.

Vietnam played host in 1998 and it was they who ousted the defending champions in the semi-finals following a 3-0 victory in Hanoi, while Singapore edged Indonesia in Ho Chi Minh City to book their ticket to the final.



Just like two years earlier, one goal was enough, with R. Sasikumar writing his name into Singaporean football history by scoring with 20 minutes to play to break Vietnamese hearts and seal his country's first major piece of silverware.

A new millennium, a new host as the tournament moved to Thailand in 2000, and the Thais breezed through the group stage with Kiatisuk scoring in each game before he was again on the mark in the semi-final victory over Malaysia.

But it was Worrawoot Srimaka who stole the headlines in the final against Indonesia, scoring a hat-trick in a 4-1 win to seal the title.

Two titles in three editions became three in four for the War Elephants but the 2002 competition, co-hosted by Indonesia and Singapore, would be the last time they lifted the title for 12 years.

After squeezing through the group stage on goal difference, Thailand eased past

Vietnam in the semi-finals to book a date with an Indonesian side looking for revenge after defeating Malaysia in the other semi-final.

In front of 100,000 at Jakarta's Gelora Bung Karno Stadium, second-half goals from Garuda duo Yaris Riyadi and Gendut Doni Christiawan cancelled out first-half strikes from Chukiat Noosarung and Therdsak Chaiman. But Indonesia's dream ended in the cruellest fashion as it was Thailand – despite Kiatisuk missing the opening spot-kick – who prevailed on penalties.

Thailand's reign was ended in 2004, however, when they were eliminated at the group stage in a campaign that saw Myanmar reach the last four for the first time before narrowly losing out to Singapore in the first two-legged semi-finals.

Having overcome Malaysia in the other semi-final, Indonesia returned to the final



for the third time in a row. It was not third time lucky, however, with a 3-1 loss in Jakarta followed by a 2-1 defeat in Kallang seeing Singapore crowned champions for the second time.

Noh Alam Shah's seven-goal haul in Singapore's 11-0 group stage win over Laos remains part of the tournament's folklore, although in reality the striker would score more important goals in 2007. An equaliser against Malaysia in the first leg of the semi-final proved crucial as the Singaporeans ultimately advanced on penalties before he also netted as the Lions saw off Thailand 2-1 in the first leg of the final in Kallang.

One down in the return meeting in Bangkok, Khairul Amri powered home the goal that saw Singapore draw level with Thailand on three titles after a 3-2 victory. Alam Shah's record-breaking 10 goals, meanwhile, won him the Golden Boot and MVP awards.

A 20-year-old Teerasil Dangda netted his first AFF Championship goals in 2008, scoring twice against Malaysia in the group stage and then again in the semi-final victory against Indonesia.

In the other semi-final, Vietnam ended Singapore's hopes of becoming the first team to win three in a row as they returned to the final a decade after their first appearance.



TEERASIL DANGDA



Aiming for a fourth title, Thailand were stunned by Vietnam when goals from Nguyen Vu Phong and Le Cong Vinh saw the Golden Star Warriors win 2-1 at Rajamangala Stadium.

Back in Hanoi, Teerasil opened the scoring but Cong Vinh's 94th-minute equaliser sparked pandemonium around My Dinh Stadium as Vietnam sealed a 3-2 aggregate win to become the third different nation to be crowned champions.

Two years later, Vietnam were the only former winner to reach the semi-finals, but a pair of first-leg Safee Sali goals saw Malaysia oust the holders to return to the final for the first time since 1996.

Up against Indonesia, Safee was the star as he netted twice in a 3-0 first-leg win at Bukit Jalil National Stadium and added another in the return meeting at Gelora Bung Karno Stadium as the Harimau Malaya ran out 4-2 aggregate winners to lift their first title.

Thailand and Singapore returned to the fore in 2012 as the tournament's two most successful sides saw off the defending champions and the Philippines respectively in the semi-finals to progress to the main event.

Amri again proved a thorn in Thailand's side, scoring Singapore's second in between a penalty from Fahrudin Mustafic and a late Baihakki Khaizan goal in a 3-1 win at Jalan Besar Stadium which, after a 1-0 loss in Bangkok, was enough for the Lions to win an unprecedented fourth title.

It was a record that lasted just two years as, boosted by the emergence of Chanathip Songkrasin, Thailand defeated Singapore in their opening game in 2014 before easing past the Philippines in the semi-finals.



CHANATHIP SONGKRASIN

Up against Malaysia in the final, they won 2-0 in Bangkok, only to fall three down in Kuala Lumpur. But Chanathip stepped up in the final 10 minutes when, first, his free-kick was only parried out allowing Charyl Chappuis to level and, then, he scored a stunning left-footed effort to seal a 4-3 aggregate win.

After winning three titles between 1996 and 2002, meanwhile, Kiatsuk became the first person to lift the trophy as a player and manager. Two years later, he guided Thailand to a third successive final, where they were up against familiar foes Indonesia.

Teerasil opened the scoring with a crucial away goal in the first leg in Bogor and, although the Garuda eventually won 2-1 on the night, Siroch Chatthong's brace in Bangkok saw the War Elephants crowned champions for a fifth time.

Having been named MVP in both 2014 and 2016, Chanathip was absent in 2018 as a much-hyped Vietnam side boasting one of ASEAN's finest talents in Nguyen Quang Hai took centre stage. The Golden Star Warriors advanced from the group stage without conceding and then claimed back-to-back wins over the Philippines in the last four.

Goals from Nguyen Huy Hung and Pham Duc Huy put Park Hang-seo's side two up against Malaysia in the final but, spurred on by a capacity crowd at Bukit Jalil National Stadium, Shahrul Saad and Safawi Rasid ensured the first leg ended 2-2 as the sides headed to Hanoi with the tie on a knife edge.



NGUYEN ANH DUC

Veteran striker Nguyen Anh Duc then calmed any nerves at My Dinh Stadium, volleying home Quang Hai's dinked cross in the sixth minute with a goal that ultimately secured the title.

Then, after being postponed for a year due to Covid-19, the 2020 edition was held at the end of 2021 in Singapore as, for the first time since 2000, the tournament was staged in a single country.



IKHSAN FANDI

Some 25 years after his father had scored in the first-ever AFF Championship game, Ikhsan Fandi got Singapore off to a winning start with two goals against Myanmar and was again on the scoresheet in the semi-final against Indonesia.

However, Indonesia prevailed to line up yet another clash with Thailand, who had seen a returning Chanathip score both goals in their 2-0 semi-final win over Vietnam.

And it was more disappointment for the Garuda, with Chanathip scoring twice in an emphatic 4-0 first-leg win for Thailand. The ensuing 2-2 draw confirmed title number six while Chanathip picked up the MVP for a record-extending third time.

Now, after the Covid-19-enforced centralised campaign, the AFF Mitsubishi Electric Cup 2022 returns to the home-and-away format as a tournament famed for high-octane action on the pitch and vibrancy in the stands promises to deliver yet another thrilling edition.

# ROLL OF HONOUR

2020

6-2

on aggregate



**THAILAND**  
Winner



**INDONESIA**  
Runners-up

2018

3-2

on aggregate



**VIETNAM**  
Winner



**MALAYSIA**  
Runners-up

2016

3-2

on aggregate



**THAILAND**  
Winner



**INDONESIA**  
Runners-up

2014

4-3

on aggregate



**THAILAND**  
Winner



**MALAYSIA**  
Runners-up

2012

3-2

on aggregate



**SINGAPORE**  
Winner



**THAILAND**  
Runners-up

2010

4-2

on aggregate



**MALAYSIA**  
Winner



**INDONESIA**  
Runners-up

2008

3-2

on aggregate



**VIETNAM**  
Winner



**THAILAND**  
Runners-up

2006/07

3-2

on aggregate



**SINGAPORE**  
Winner



**THAILAND**  
Runners-up

2004

5-2

on aggregate



**SINGAPORE**  
Winner



**INDONESIA**  
Runners-up

2002

2-2

4-2 on penalties



**THAILAND**  
Winner



**INDONESIA**  
Runners-up

2000

4-1

on aggregate



**THAILAND**  
Winner



**INDONESIA**  
Runners-up

1998

1-0

on aggregate



**SINGAPORE**  
Winner



**VIETNAM**  
Runners-up

1996

1-0

on aggregate



**THAILAND**  
Winner



**MALAYSIA**  
Runners-up



**YANMAR**

Anyone can enjoy football.  
Be free and be brave.  
Win or lose,  
Work your way up,  
For future possibilities.  
For a grand dream.  
With light foot  
and passionate heart.  
Football is for us all.

**# Football is  
our engine**



DEFENDING CHAMPIONS REVIEW

# CHANATHIP RETURNS TO FIRE THAILAND TO GLORY



Having seen their hopes of a third successive title quashed in 2018, Thailand were back with renewed hunger at the 2020 edition as they returned to the summit of Southeast Asian football by lifting the trophy for a record-extending sixth time.

Champions on three occasions between 1996 and 2002 when the likes of Kiatisuk 'Zico' Senamuang and Worrawoot Srimaka helped them dominate the early years of the tournament, Thailand had to wait a further 12 years to win title number four.

Inspired by a young Chanathip Songkrasin, the War Elephants produced a memorable win over Malaysia in the 2014 final and retained the title two years later after Siroch Chatthong's brace secured victory over Indonesia to seal their record fifth title. However, without Chanathip, Theerathon Bunmathan and Teerasil Dangda, Thailand were beaten by Malaysia in the 2018 semi-finals.

After the tournament was delayed for a year due to Covid-19, Thailand returned at the 2020 edition in Singapore aiming

to reclaim the trophy. Under Brazilian Alexandre Pölking, the trio of Chanathip, Theerathon and Teerasil were all included in a squad that was many people's tip for the title.

But it was one of their newer generation of stars that shone in the opening game against Timor-Leste as Supachok Sarachat volleyed home the second goal in a 2-0 victory.

Teerasil stole the headlines in Thailand's 4-0 win over Myanmar, firing home a lovely opener from outside the box before doubling his side's advantage from the spot with a strike that drew him level on 17 goals with Singapore's Noh Alam Shah at the top of the tournament's all-time scoring charts.

And the record soon belonged to Teerasil alone after his lovely finish from Theerathon's cross saw his side go one up against the Philippines with what was his

18th AFF Championship goal. The striker scored number 19 with another penalty to secure a 2-1 win and a place in the semi-finals.

*"I don't know how often I can come here and praise him; he's the best striker I've coached and the best striker I've seen and he just proved that again,"* admitted Pölking.

*"He creates chances, he came up with another world-class finish tonight and I hope he can keep going so that we can reach and win the final."*

With top spot still to play for, Elias Dolah and Supachai Jaidee scored to seal a 2-0 victory over hosts Singapore and make it a perfect four wins from four.

Back in the semi-finals, Thailand faced defending champions Vietnam and it was Chanathip who stole the show, racing through to put his side in front inside 15



minutes before capping a fine flowing move by tapping into the bottom right corner to make it two midway through the first half.

Nguyen Quang Hai struck the woodwork with a free-kick before Chanathip spurned the opportunity to complete his hat-trick by missing a late penalty but the 2-0 victory ensured they went into the second leg in a commanding position.

The subsequent 0-0 draw secured a return to the final, which was a repeat of the 2016 edition, with Indonesia the opponents and looking to end their long wait to be crowned champions.

But it was Thailand who got off to a blistering start when Philip Roller teed up Chanathip to fire home a left-footed effort inside two minutes.

Supachok created the second for Chanathip seven minutes after the interval before getting on the scoresheet himself in the 67th minute to make it three. Bordin Phala rounded off the scoring in the final 10 minutes as Thailand went into the return meeting with one hand on the trophy.

Indonesia gave themselves some hope when Ricky Kambuaya opened the scoring early in the second leg but goals from Adisak Kraisorn and Sarach Yooyen in the 54th and 56th minutes put the result beyond doubt and ensured Egy Maulana's equaliser 10 minutes from time was only a consolation.

The 6-2 aggregate victory meant Thailand returned to the podium as winners for a sixth time, while Chanathip was named MVP for a third time, adding to the accolades he won in 2014 and 2016 as he once again proved to be the leading light in Southeast Asian football.

Teerasil's four goals, meanwhile, meant he finished as the joint-top scorer, alongside Malaysia's Safawi Rasid, Bienvenido Marañón of the Philippines and Chanathip. The striker has now found the back of the net in the 2008, 2012, 2016 and 2020 editions.

*"After such a difficult year, football is still a great opportunity to make people happy and I hope this is a New Year gift for all people in Thailand,"* reflected Pölking.

*"I'm so happy that we won but also that we won in a special way and I just have to give thanks to everyone from the staff, the officials and especially to the players.*

*"This is a prestigious competition and we showed some brilliant moments of football, defended well when we had to and created the most chances in the tournament, so we have to take that belief to the next level now."*

Since lifting the title, Thailand have gone on to secure their passage to a second successive AFC Asian Cup after qualifying for the 2023 continental competition.

With Pölking still at the helm, Thailand return to the AFF Mitsubishi Electric Cup looking to successfully defend their crown for the third time having won back-to-back titles in 2000 and 2002 then in 2014 and 2016 as they aim to extend their record to seven titles.

The War Elephants have been placed in Group A alongside Indonesia, the Philippines, Cambodia and Brunei Darussalam.

Pölking's team will open their campaign against Brunei, then welcome the Philippines to Thammasat Stadium. A trip to Indonesia will follow before they round off the group stage at home to Cambodia.

Q&amp;A WITH THAILAND HEAD COACH

# ALEXANDRÉ PÖLKING



- 1** Having been in Southeast Asia for many years, can you describe what makes the football culture in this part of the world – and the support for the national teams – so special?

*People here in Southeast Asia are really passionate about football and they all love the sport. It is also a good place to live with the family. Many people in the region are following a lot of English football as well, and with the Premier League being so strong at the moment, I believe more and more people are enjoying watching football.*

- 2** After taking over the most successful side in the AFF Championship's history last year, how would you describe the pressure of managing Thailand? Is anything other than lifting the trophy a failure?

*I believe that managing top national teams in the AFF Championship always comes with a lot of pressure because the expectations are really high. Here in Thailand, people always expect us to win, especially because of our good record in this championship. If you do not win, it will be always seen as a failure.*

- 3** Thailand were unbeaten on their march to the 2020 title. From a personal perspective, what was the most pleasing part of the campaign?

*There were great players with great attitude in the team and we could create fantastic team spirit from the first day. We grew together as a team game by game and showed good performances.*

*The fact that we used an entirely different set of 11 players against Singapore (in the Group Stage) and won the game helped us to feel united and gave us much confidence going into the Semifinal and Final.*

- 4** Unlike last year when the tournament was played in Singapore, the AFF Mitsubishi Electric Cup returns to a home and away basis. How much does this enhance the competition, and what challenges does this format bring?

*For me, that is great for the simple fact that we can have our fans behind us and that will always help. Sure!!! We will of course have to handle the pressure of playing away as well, but personally, I like this home and away format.*

- 5** Thailand will face a rematch of the 2020 final when you travel to Jakarta to play Indonesia in the group stage. What are your thoughts on that game and what kind of atmosphere do you expect at the stadium?

*Clearly, it is going to be the most difficult game because we are expecting a full house at their stadium and Indonesia is a very good team. So, we need to be very focused and play our best football in order to stand a chance of winning that game.*



- 6** The War Elephants will be targeting a record-extending seventh title. Which teams do you think will offer the biggest threat to Thailand retaining the trophy and why?

*Vietnam, Malaysia, and Indonesia are all very strong teams with good coaches and will probably have good amount of time to prepare for this competition as usual. I feel they all are the prime candidates to challenge for the title.*

- 7** Four of the teams – Thailand, Indonesia, Malaysia, and Vietnam – have qualified for next year's AFC Asian Cup. With club sides in Southeast Asia also doing well at continental level, why do you think football in the region is improving?

*It is very important that we, the four Southeast Asian teams, qualified and I really hope that one of us can go really far in the competition. We still have a lot of room for improvement. I believe our national leagues must be more professional and the clubs must invest more in the youths and infrastructure. That is the key for me.*

- 8** A number of Thai players have had the chance to move abroad in recent seasons. After the success of Chanathip Songkrasin and Theerathon Bunmathan in Japan, how advantageous is it for the players' development to play overseas?

*It is a huge advantage, especially for the players. To get out of the comfort zone and fight in the leagues that are stronger than ours, this helps them to learn a lot and improve their football quality.*

- 9** Players such as Supachok Sarachat, Supachai Jaided and Suphanat Mueanta are part of the next generation of talent after Chanathip and Theerathon. How happy are you with the quality that has been developed at youth level in recent years?

*We have many good young players performing very well now in the Thai League 1 and we need to continue to develop them and the others. As an example, Buriram United just sent three of their players to train with Leicester City FC for a few weeks and I believe such moves are very beneficial for these young players.*

- 10** Finally, the team will be back playing in front of the Thailand fans in Bangkok at the AFF Mitsubishi Electric Cup. How does that make you feel and what are your goals for the tournament?

*We will fight to win again and I am pretty sure that our fans will support us. Given the opportunity, our fans will fill up our stadium and create a loud and incredible atmosphere during the matches. We have an amazing fanbase and as we continue to recover from the pandemic, I am sure they will be delighted to attend the games at the stadium again and get behind us as we defend the title as the reigning champions.*



OFFICIAL SUPPORTER

ACECOOK VIỆT NAM LÀ NHÀ TÀI TRỢ CHÍNH CỦA CÁC ĐỘI QUỐC GIA VIỆT NAM  
VÀ LÀ ĐỐI TÁC ĐỒNG HÀNH CHÍNH THỨC CỦA GIẢI AFF MITSUBISHI ELECTRIC CUP 2022



# GIẤC MƠ KHÔNG BAO GIỜ KẾT THÚC

CÔNG TY CỔ PHẦN ACECOOK VIỆT NAM

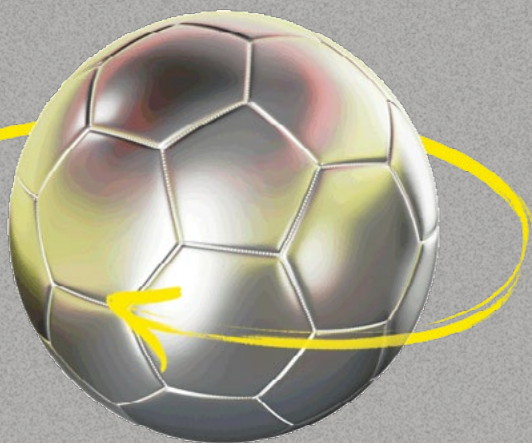
LÔ SỐ B/3, ĐƯỜNG SỐ 11, NHÓM CN II, KHU CÔNG NGHIỆP TÂN BÌNH, PHƯỜNG TÂY THANH, QUẬN TÂN PHÚ, THÀNH PHỐ HỒ CHÍ MINH.  
ĐIỆN THOẠI: 84-28-38154064 - FAX: 84-28-38154067 - WEBSITE: [HTTP://WWW.ACECOOKVIETNAM.VN](http://www.acecookvietnam.vn) - EMAIL: [INFO@ACECOOKVIETNAM.COM](mailto:info@acecookvietnam.com)

# ▶▶ **ON**SIDE

## **PREMIER DIGITAL COLLECTIBLES FOR THE AFF MITSUBISHI ELECTRIC CUP 2022**

As ASEAN football fans continue to celebrate their teams and countries on the pitch, the 2022 iteration of the biggest football tournament in South East Asia now introduces a new way for fans to share their football passion in the digital space. The newly launched digital collectible platform – ONSIDE – is built to make digital collectibles accessible for all fans and has been developed with fan experience at the heart of the action.

**ON**SIDEcollection.com



## **OFF THE FIELD. ▶▶ IN THE GAME.**

The roar of the fans, the once-in-a-lifetime stadium experience and the pulsating drama between rivals on the field – these are the moments all ASEAN football fans live for. With the new ONSIDE digital collection, fans now have the ability to turn from just supporters to actual owners of their favourite moments from the beautiful game.



**Join our  
Discord  
Channel**

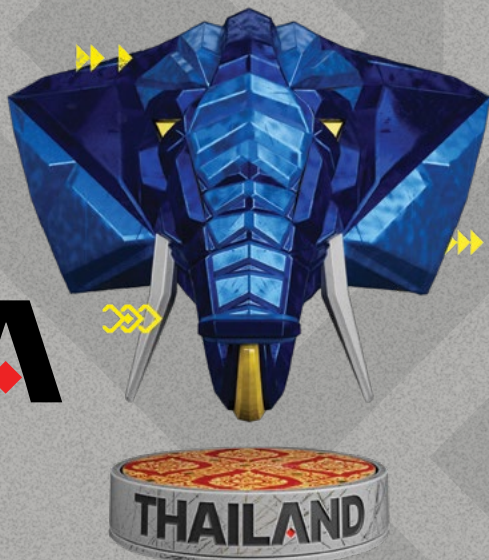




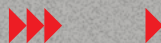
# ONside

► DIGITAL COLLECTION OF THE AFF MITSUBISHI ELECTRIC CUP

## ALPHA MASKS



Kicking off the ONSIDE collectibles are the **ALPHA Country masks** – masks that are the representation of each participating country and the imagery that has become the cornerstone of the tournament. The visual evolution of the social filters that were used by millions of fans across the region during the last tournament iteration has taken a step further into the Web3 space – with ONSIDE providing a chance for fans to own a piece of the tournament, rather than just interact with it.



Head to [ONsidecollection.com](https://onsidecollection.com) to learn more and







## THE BENEFITS

### ►► DIGITAL TO REAL-WORLD

The utility that comes with the purchase of the ALPHA masks is what really makes the collection special – purchasing a mask will give fans the chance to have a unique way to gain experiences around the tournament itself. Whether its walking pitch-side during halftime, getting their hands on the official match ball or even getting additional behind-the-scenes access to their favourite teams – the ALPHA masks will give fans the chance to bring them one step closer to the game.

**start your ASEAN football digital collection today.**



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# OFFICIAL DRAW



The Official Draw for the AFF Mitsubishi Electric Cup 2022 took place in Bangkok on 30 August 2022, revealing the pathway to glory for the 10 participating teams.

The event was held at Shangri-La Bangkok in Thailand, with the proceedings conducted by AFF President Major General Khiev Sameth, in the presence of representatives from the different member federations, participating teams, sponsors and broadcast partners.

Defending champions Thailand were drawn in Group A alongside the 2020 edition's runners-up Indonesia. Philippines, Cambodia and the winner of the qualification round Brunei Darussalam join them in Group A.

Meanwhile, 2018 champions Vietnam were placed in Group B, where they will face 2010 winners Malaysia, four-time champions Singapore, Myanmar and Laos.

During the Official Draw event, the AFF also announced the dates of the tournament, as well as the welcome return to a full home-and-away format, in which each team will play two games at home and two games away in the Group Stage.

AFF President, Major General Khiev Sameth, said, "We are glad to have finalised the dates of the AFF Mitsubishi Electric Cup 2022 and the official groupings for all the teams. ASEAN fans will have much to look forward to following the draw, with all the exciting matchups in the respective group matches. We are in for a thrilling and competitive tournament. I am confident that the AFF Mitsubishi Electric Cup 2022 will surpass all expectations, both on and off the field, and emerge as the best edition yet."

President of the Football Association of Thailand, Police General Somyot Poompanmoung, said, "We are delighted to have hosted the Official Draw in Bangkok and kickstart the countdown to a new era of ASEAN football. The 2020 edition has been a very successful one for the Thai National Team and we are looking forward to defending the title later this year."

Alexandr  P lking, Thailand National Football Coach, said, "I believe the home and away format for this year's tournament will be very nice for the fans especially. With two Group Stage games being played at home, it will give a different atmosphere and makes it more special from the previous edition."



**POCARI SWEAT is a health drink that contains a balance of ions (electrolytes) that resembles the natural fluid balance in the human body. Quickly and easily replenishes the water and ions that your body needs, and quenches every part of you.**



# TROPHY TOUR AND CSR FOOTBALL CLINIC



Leading up to the AFF Mitsubishi Electric Cup 2022, the ultimate prize of Southeast Asia's flagship football competition embarked on a tour of five cities in the region. Beginning on 24 September in Bangkok, Thailand, the home of the current champions, the AFF Mitsubishi Electric Cup 2022 Trophy Tour made stops in Singapore (15 October), Selangor, Malaysia (22 October), Jakarta, Indonesia (26 November), before concluding in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam (3 December).

With the aim of building excitement, as well as rallying the fans and community to get behind their teams at their home stadiums, each stop of the Trophy Tour featured special appearances by local football legends such as Therdsak Chaiman and Pipob On-Mo in Bangkok,

Lionel Lewis and Baihakki Khaizan in Singapore, Norshahrul Idlan, Mahali Jasuli and Shahrom Kalam in Selangor, and many more. The event saw fans turning up at the various shopping mall venues and offered them opportunities to get up close with the trophy, interact with the legends, as well as participate in stage games and challenges.

In addition to the Trophy Tour, AFF and Mitsubishi Electric also launched a new corporate social responsibility (CSR) initiative focused on supporting children from the local communities. This initiative saw AFF, the Member Associations, and Mitsubishi Electric engage with local charity partners to organise Football Clinics for children in each of the five countries.



AFF  
MITSUBISHI  
ELECTRIC  
CUP 2022

WARRIX



# UNITY IS OUR STRENGTH BERSATU

OFFICIAL MATCH BALL AFF MITSUBISHI ELECTRIC CUP 2022





Led by the football legends, the Football Clinics gave the children an opportunity to learn fundamental footballing techniques from their local heroes, but more importantly inspire these children to dream big and aspire to represent their countries in the future. These children will also be invited to attend the home matches, as well as to participate in the Player Escort Programme during the tournament.

*"We last held the AFF Championship Trophy Tour back in 2018 and saw an overwhelming response from the fans in each city we've gone to. As fans across the region gear up and reignite their passion for their teams, it is apt that we bring this initiative back and we are thrilled to have organised the AFF Mitsubishi Electric Cup 2022 Trophy Tour, which presented a unique opportunity for fans to get up close with the trophy, as well as to feel more connected to this special tournament,"* said AFF President, Major General Khiev Sameth.

*"We are also delighted to launch the CSR initiative this year. As the region emerges from the pandemic that has hampered many sports activities over the last two years, we are thrilled to work*

*with Mitsubishi Electric to bring football back into the lives of our children in the communities and inspire them to reach for the stars in everything they do."*

Kunihiro Seki, Corporate Executive and Chief Representative Asia Pacific Region of Mitsubishi Electric Corporation, added, *"Leading up to the highly-anticipated new era of the AFF Mitsubishi Electric Cup, we are delighted to play a major part in bringing the championship trophy to five cities in the region, to give fans and the general public a taste of the experience to come when the main event kicks off in December."*






*"Here at Mitsubishi Electric, we strongly believe that it is also important to make football accessible to children from all walks of life and we are proud to support the CSR initiative. It brings a smile to my face to see the joy and excitement of the children as they learnt life-long skills from their football heroes. This is exactly as we envisaged when we came on board as the tournament's title sponsor - to contribute and enrich the lives of the communities through the event and build a better future together."*









# TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE

## GROUP A

A1	A2	A3	A4	A5
				

## GROUP B

B1	B2	B3	B4	B5
				

## GROUP A

CAMBODIA vs PHILIPPINES	BRUNEI DS vs THAILAND
M1	M2
PHILIPPINES vs BRUNEI DS	INDONESIA vs CAMBODIA
M5	M6
BRUNEI DS vs INDONESIA	THAILAND vs PHILIPPINES
M9	M10
INDONESIA vs THAILAND	CAMBODIA vs BRUNEI DS
M13	M14
THAILAND vs CAMBODIA	PHILIPPINES vs INDONESIA
M17	M18

## GROUP B

MYANMAR vs MALAYSIA	LAOS vs VIETNAM
M3	M4
MALAYSIA vs LAOS	SINGAPORE vs MYANMAR
M7	M8
LAOS vs SINGAPORE	VIETNAM vs MALAYSIA
M11	M12
SINGAPORE vs VIETNAM	MYANMAR vs LAOS
M15	M16
VIETNAM vs MYANMAR	MALAYSIA vs SINGAPORE
M19	M20







## SEMI-FINAL 1

**Runners-Up A  
vs  
Winner B**

M21

**Runners-Up B  
vs  
Winner A**

M22

## SEMI-FINAL 2

**Winner B  
vs  
Runners-Up A**

M23

**Winner A  
vs  
Runners-Up B**

M24

## FINAL 1

**Winner of 21/23  
vs  
Winner of 22/24**

M25

## FINAL 2

**Winner of 22/24  
vs  
Winner of 21/23**

M26



## TOURNAMENT RECORD:

*Group stage 1996*

## NICKNAME:

*Tebuan  
(The Hornets)*

## HEAD COACH:

*Mario Rivera (Spain)*

# BRUNEI DARUSSALAM

It's been a new coach, new ideas and a new dawn for football in Brunei Darussalam as they made it to the AFF Championship for the first time after 26 years.

Brunei's only previous appearance in ASEAN's biennial showpiece was in 1996 when the AFF Championship was in its inaugural edition.

The Hornets were paired alongside Thailand, Malaysia, the Philippines and hosts Singapore in 1996 as a new era in ASEAN football began.

After losing their opening two matches, Brunei posted a 1-0 victory over the Philippines when Irwan Mohammad netted the winner at the National Stadium in Kallang.

However, that remained Brunei's only win and only appearance in an AFF Championship as they failed to make it through the qualifying rounds for ensuing editions.

They came close to qualifying in 2012 when they fell one point short of Laos in the five-team qualification tournament despite posting wins against Cambodia and Timor-Leste in Yangon.

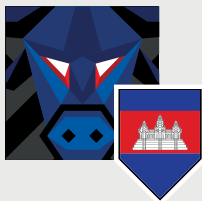
In 2018, having lost the first leg 3-1 against Timor-Leste, they came within a goal of booking their ticket to the group stage after winning the return meeting 1-0, but the Timorese ultimately edged through 3-2 on aggregate.

However, revenge was sweet for Brunei this time round as Mario Rivera's team got the better of Timor-Leste to take the final spot in the AFF Mitsubishi Electric Cup 2022.

Braces from Abdul Azizi Ali Rahman and Muhammad Razimie Ramlli gave Brunei a commanding 6-2 first-leg victory in Bandar Seri Begawan before the 1-0 defeat in the return meeting secured their progress.

The victory built on the early positive signs under Rivera, who steered Brunei to a 1-0 win in a friendly against Laos shortly after taking charge in September. The former East Bengal coach in the Indian Super League will now look to continue that upward trajectory on their long-awaited return to the group stage.

Brunei's AFF Mitsubishi Electric Cup campaign sees them drawn alongside Thailand, Indonesia, the Philippines and Cambodia in Group A.



## TOURNAMENT RECORD:

*Group stage 2020, 2018, 2016, 2008, 2004, 2002, 2000, 1996*

## NICKNAME:

*Kouprey  
Kampuchea,  
Kouprey Blue,  
Angkor Warriors*

## HEAD COACH:

*Ryu Hirose (Japan)*

# CAMBODIA

With a brand new, state-of-the-art stadium in Phnom Penh and Japanese icon Keisuke Honda overseeing the general manager role for more than four years, there is little doubt Cambodia are a side with lofty ambitions.

The AFF Mitsubishi Electric Cup 2022 will be their ninth appearance in the tournament and, while they have been eliminated at the group stage each time, the signs have been positive recently.

Cambodia were part of the inaugural edition in 1996, then picked up their first victory in 2000 when Hok Sochetra bagged a brace in a 3-0 win over Laos. Two years later, a last-minute Ung Kanyanith goal secured a 1-0 victory against the Philippines.

But it would be 16 years until they enjoyed another victory in the competition as the 2004, 2008 and 2016 editions saw the Koupreys lose all 10 of their games.

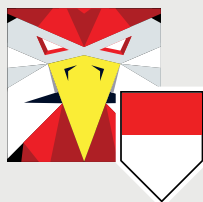
Then, on the back of Honda's appointment in 2018, Cambodia hosted its first-ever AFF Championship match as a wave of optimism swept across the nation.

Almost 35,000 turned out at Phnom Penh's National Olympic Stadium to witness a hard-fought 1-0 loss against a Malaysia side that would go on to reach the final. Then, after defeat in Myanmar, goals from Chan Vathanaka, Prak Mony Udom and Keo Sokpheng helped Cambodia defeat Laos 3-1 for only their third victory in the competition.

There were more positive signs at the 2020 edition, as Cambodia recorded another victory over Laos. Vathanaka netted twice but perhaps the highlight was a lovely goal by teenage forward Sieng Chanthea who showed plenty of promise for the future.

Since then, Cambodia were beaten by India and Hong Kong, and picked up a draw against Afghanistan, in their 2023 AFC Asian Cup qualifying campaign. Hopes remain high, however, ahead of the AFF Mitsubishi Electric Cup as they prepare to play their first competitive matches in their new home stadium.

They begin against the Philippines in Phnom Penh before matches against Indonesia, Brunei Darussalam and Thailand.



## TOURNAMENT RECORD:

- *Runners-up 2020, 2016, 2010, 2004, 2002, 2000*
- *Third place 1998*
- *Semi-finals 2008, 1996*
- *Group stage 2018, 2014, 2012, 2007*

## NICKNAME:

*The Garuda (The Eagle); Merah Putih (The Red and White)*

## HEAD COACH:

*Shin Tae-yong  
(Korea Republic)*

# INDONESIA

Indonesia have appeared in the final of the AFF Mitsubishi Electric Cup in six of the 13 tournaments.

Having reached the semi-finals in 1996 and 1998, Indonesia made it to their first final in 2000, losing 4-1 to Thailand.

Bambang Pamungkas scored a tournament-leading eight goals enroute to the final two years later. Then, with the Garuda two down to Thailand, goals from Yaris Riyadi and Gendut Doni Christiawan reignited hope of a first title, only for the Thais to prevail from the spot.

After a stunning 4-1 second-leg win over Malaysia in the semi-final, a third successive final defeat followed in 2004 after they were convincingly beaten by Singapore over two legs.

Under Alfred Riedl in 2010, the Merah Putih returned to the final but a 3-0 first-leg loss to Malaysia all but ended their dream as they eventually lost 4-2 on aggregate.

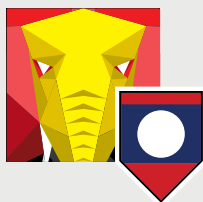
Group stage exits followed in 2012 and 2014 before 2016 saw Indonesia rise again when they overcame Vietnam in the semi-finals to secure another date with Thailand. However, after winning the first leg 2-1, it was a familiar ending as they lost 2-0 in Bangkok.

Indonesia fell in their group in 2018, but under Shin Tae-yong, a youthful side excelled last time out, topping a group that included holders Vietnam and Malaysia before ousting Singapore in the semi-finals. While they were beaten in the final by Thailand, Shin has since guided them to the 2023 AFC Asian Cup.

Several key players are now plying their trade abroad, with Egy Maulana in Slovakia, Elkan Baggott in England, and Asnawi Mangkualam and Pratama Arhan in Korea Republic and Japan respectively.

In a further sign of their upward trajectory, Indonesia qualified for the 2023 AFC Asian Cup, where they will make their first appearance since 2007. Before that, however, their aim is to end years of hurt by finally triumphing at the AFF Mitsubishi Electric Cup.





## TOURNAMENT RECORD:

*Group stage 2020, 2018, 2014, 2012, 2010, 2008, 2007, 2004, 2002, 2000, 1998, 1996*

## NICKNAME:

*Thim Xad (The National Team)*

## HEAD COACH:

*Hans Michael Weiss (Germany)*

# LAOS

Laos have appeared in 12 of the 13 AFF Championships, missing out only in 2016 since their debut in 1996.

In the inaugural 1996 tournament, they beat Cambodia 1-0 and came within moments of claiming a huge upset against Vietnam when they led courtesy of Chalana Luang-Amath's goal, only for Vietnam to equalise with five minutes to play.

The Laotians also drew with Malaysia in 1998 and 2002 before Luang-Amath scored twice in a 2-1 win over Cambodia in 2004 for their last win in the AFF Championship.

Since then, they have produced impressive draws against two ASEAN powerhouses, although both results were tinged with regret given how close they came to delivering the biggest wins in their history.

In 2010, Laos twice led Thailand, only to concede a last-minute equaliser before the same scenario played out two years later when Indonesia levelled with less than a minute to play. In 2012, they went two up against eventual champions Singapore but lost 4-3.

Since then, Laos lost all their games at the 2014, 2018 and 2020 editions, meaning it's 13 losses in a row since the draw against Indonesia.

However, they now have a new head coach, Hans Michael Weiss, who guided the Philippines to the semi-finals in 2012. In four friendlies under him this year, Laos picked up two wins against Mongolia and Brunei Darussalam.

Weiss guided the Laos U-19 team to the final of the 2022 AFF U-19 Youth Championship in July and will hope to have a similar impact on the senior side.

Laos will not have an easy start to the AFF Mitsubishi Electric Cup 2022 as they host 2018 champions Vietnam before facing Malaysia in Kuala Lumpur. They will then welcome Singapore to Vientiane before a trip to Myanmar.



## TOURNAMENT RECORD:

- *Champions 2010*
- *Runners-up 2018, 2014, 1996*
- *Third place 2004, 2000*
- *Semi-finals 2012, 2007, 2002*
- *Group stage 2020, 2016, 2008, 1998*

## NICKNAME:

*Harimau Malaya  
(The Malaysian  
Tigers)*

## HEAD COACH:

*Kim Pan-gon  
(Korea Republic)*

# MALAYSIA

Champions in 2010 and finalists on three other occasions, Malaysia are one of just four nations to win the AFF Championship. However, following a group stage exit last time out, they return looking for improvements at the AFF Mitsubishi Electric Cup 2022.

A little under a year ago, Tan Cheng Hoe's side went into the 2020 AFF Championship with expectations riding high following an impressive run in 2018 that saw them reach the final only to go down to Vietnam 3-2 on aggregate.

But what ensued was an early exit as the Harimau Malaya failed to live up to expectations. Despite beginning with wins over Cambodia and Laos, Tan's side fell to defeats to Vietnam and Indonesia leading to their elimination and the head coach's resignation.

In came Korean Kim Pan-gon who has got off to a fine start helping Malaysia qualify for the 2023 AFC Asian Cup as they return to the competition for the first time since co-hosting it in 2007.

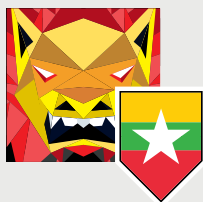
The team recorded wins over Bangladesh and Turkmenistan and ran Bahrain close in a 2-1 loss in the AFC Asian Cup qualifiers while draws against hosts Thailand and Tajikistan at the 2022 King's Cup suggest Malaysia are a force on the ascendancy under the former Ulsan Hyundai winger.

The onus will now be on Kim and his squad to show that 2020 was a blip as they aim to challenge for the title again.

Malaysia have reached the final of the AFF Championship four times and lifted the trophy once in 2010, when Safee Sali's three goals over the two-legged final handed Malaysia a 4-2 aggregate win over Indonesia as more than 98,000 spectators attended the first leg at Bukit Jalil National Stadium.

Malaysia were also the finalists in the inaugural tournament in 1996, losing 1-0 to Thailand in a single-legged title decider, and in 2014 when it was once again the War Elephants who broke Malaysian hearts with a 4-3 victory over two legs.

Following their 2022 AFF Mitsubishi Electric Cup opener against Myanmar, the Harimau Malaya will lock horns with Laos in Kuala Lumpur before playing Vietnam away and then returning home to host their Causeway neighbours Singapore.



## TOURNAMENT RECORD:

- *Semi-finals 2016, 2004*
- *Group stage 2020, 2018, 2014, 2012, 2010, 2008, 2007, 2002, 2000, 1998, 1996*

## NICKNAME:

*The White Angels*

## HEAD COACH:

*Antoine Hey  
(Germany)*

# MYANMAR

Myanmar have played in every AFF Championship since its launch in 1996 when they opened with a resounding 5-0 win over Cambodia, with their tournament highlights being runs to the semi-finals in 2004 and 2016.

Coached by Ivan Kolev, Myanmar's first foray into the semi-finals in 2004 was after they topped a group that featured defending champions Thailand, Malaysia, the Philippines and Timor-Leste. A draw against the holders and victory over the Malaysians remain two of their standout results in the competition's history.

The White Angels then gave Singapore an almighty scare in the semi-finals going 2-1 up before losing the first leg 4-3 and then taking the second leg into extra-time. It was not to be, however, as the Singaporeans broke Myanmar hearts.

In 2016, Myanmar qualified from a group that featured Vietnam and Malaysia. Coached by Gerd Zeise and inspired by the goalscoring heroics of Aung Thu, Myanmar returned to the semi-finals after David Htan's 89th-minute winner against the Malaysians in Yangon.

Defeat to Thailand followed but two years later under another German, Antoine Hey, Myanmar posted wins over Cambodia and Laos, as well as holding eventual champions Vietnam, only just missing out on a place in the final four.

Hey was back for the 2020 edition, although performances under the former Schalke 04 midfielder failed to match 2018 as three defeats and just one win, against Timor-Leste, saw them exit at the first hurdle.

Since then, Myanmar took part in the 2023 AFC Asian Cup qualifiers, but failed to progress after defeats to Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan and Singapore.

However, Hey will hope it's third time lucky at the AFF Championship as he aims to lead the White Angels into the semi-finals for the first time in six years.

Myanmar begin their AFF Mitsubishi Electric Cup 2022 campaign against Malaysia before taking on Singapore. They will then face Laos before a trip to Vietnam.



## TOURNAMENT RECORD:

- *Semi-finals 2018, 2014, 2012, 2010*
- *Group stage 2020, 2016, 2007, 2004, 2002, 2000, 1998, 1996*

## NICKNAME:

*The Azkals  
(Street Dogs)*

## HEAD COACH:

*Josep Ferré Ybarz  
(Spain)*

# PHILIPPINES

The Philippines have appeared in all except one AFF Championship, with their sole absence in 2008 marking the beginning of an upturn in their footballing fortunes.

Before then, the Azkals exited at the group stage six times in a row, winning just once – against Timor-Leste in 2004 when Emelio Caligdong scored twice. But since 2010, they have made the semi-finals in four of their six appearances.

Key to the turnaround was improving player development at home and tapping into the diaspora around the world.

Chris Greatwich and Phil Younghusband scored as the Philippines stunned holders Vietnam in the 2010 group stage with a 2-0 victory that became known as the 'Miracle of Hanoi'.

While they were eliminated by Indonesia in the semi-finals, the tournament was evidence that the Philippines were becoming a force.

In 2012, the Azkals posted another win over Vietnam as they again made the semi-finals before a loss to Singapore.

A 4-0 win over Indonesia was the highlight of their run to the semi-finals in 2014 and, after exiting at the group stage in 2016, the Azkals returned to the fore in 2018 under Sven-Goran Eriksson.

They defeated Singapore and Timor-Leste and drew with Thailand and Indonesia to advance to the knockout rounds unbeaten.

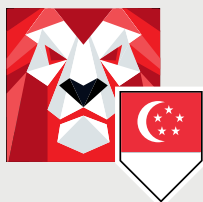
A pair of 2-1 defeats to Vietnam followed, but the side had created history earlier in the year by qualifying for the 2019 AFC Asian Cup – their first continental tournament.

Then, 2020 marked the beginning of a new era as, for the first time in more than a decade, the squad was without the instrumental brothers Phil and James Younghusband.

Despite a big win over Timor-Leste and a 3-2 victory against Myanmar in which Bienvenido Marañón scored a hat-trick, the Azkals exited at the group stage.

The Philippines will target a return to the knockout rounds after being drawn alongside Thailand, Indonesia, Cambodia and Brunei Darussalam at the AFF Mitsubishi Electric Cup 2022.





# SINGAPORE

Four-time champions Singapore are the most successful team in the AFF Championship after Thailand, but December will mark 10 years since they secured their last major silverware.

It was on December 22, 2012, that the Lions overcame Thailand to win their most recent AFF Championship title as they became the first side to win it four times.

Though it's been a long wait without trophies, Singapore can draw inspiration from their semi-final run in the 2020 edition as they challenge for ASEAN supremacy again.

Last time out, Singapore beat the Philippines, Myanmar and Timor-Leste to progress to the knockout stage for the first time since 2012. Then, they came within four minutes of the final only for Indonesia to take the game to extra-time and win 5-3 on aggregate.

Their first silverware arrived in 1998 when R. Sasikumar scored the winner against Vietnam before goalkeeper Lionel Lewis, Noh Alam Shah and Agu Casmir all impressed in 2004, which culminated in a 5-2 aggregate win over Indonesia.

Alam Shah was the hero in 2007 with seven goals in a single game against Laos, while Shahril Ishak and Khairul Amri also starred as the Lions defeated Thailand to win title number three.

On the back of reaching the 2020 semi-finals, head coach Tatsuma Yoshida stepped down and was replaced by Japanese compatriot Takayuki Nishigaya. The new man in charge has plenty of talent at his disposal, including Hassan Sunny, Hariss Harun, Shahdan Sulaiman and Irfan Fandi.

But there's little doubt the jewel in the crown is Irfan's brother, Ikhsan Fandi. The son of Singapore icon Fandi Ahmad and considered one of the finest talents in Southeast Asia, the 23-year-old netted three times in the previous AFF Championship and has impressed in Thailand's top tier and the AFC Champions League with BG Pathum United.

With Singapore set to face Myanmar, Laos, Vietnam and Malaysia in Group B of the AFF Mitsubishi Electric Cup 2022, they will hope to at least reach the knockout rounds again.

## TOURNAMENT RECORD:

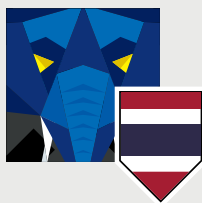
- *Champions 2012, 2007, 2004, 1998*
- *Semi-finals 2020, 2010*
- *Group stage 2018, 2016, 2014, 2010, 2002, 2000, 1996*

## NICKNAME:

*The Lions*

## HEAD COACH:

*Takayuki Nishigaya  
(Japan)*



## TOURNAMENT RECORD:

- *Champions 2020, 2016, 2014, 2002, 2000, 1996*
- *Runners-up 2012, 2008, 2007*
- *Semi-finals 2018, 1998*
- *Group stage 2010, 2004*

## NICKNAME:

*Changsuek  
(The War  
Elephants)*

## HEAD COACH:

*Alexandr  P lking  
(Brazil)*

# THAILAND

The 2020 AFF Championship saw Thailand secure a record-extending sixth title as they lifted the trophy for the third time in four editions.

Key to their recent success has been Chanathip Songkrasin, the MVP in 2014, 2016 and 2020. But in the early years, it was Kiattisuk 'Zico' Senamuang who was their leading light.

Kiattisuk's goal against Malaysia in the 1996 final proved enough for the War Elephants to be crowned the inaugural champions.

After a semi-final exit in 1998, Thailand returned to win all five of their games in 2000 as Kiattisuk scored in the first four matches and Worrawoot Srimaka netted a hat-trick in the final against Indonesia for title number two.

Two years later, they made it three titles in four editions after beating Indonesia on penalties. The Thais then went 12 years without a title despite reaching the final thrice.

The emergence of Chanathip was key to ending the drought as he scored in both the semi-final win over the Philippines and then fired home one of the tournament's most iconic goals in the final against Malaysia to seal the 2014 title.

Thailand defended their crown in 2016 as Chanathip put in another MVP performance as they saw off Indonesia in the final.

However, they exited in the semi-finals in 2018 before returning with renewed vigour under Alexand  P lking in the 2020 edition.

The War Elephants breezed through the group stage with four wins from four, while Teerasil Dangda's four goals saw him top the AFF Championship's all-time scoring charts on 19 goals.

But it was Chanathip who stole the show in the knockout rounds, with his first-leg double eliminating Vietnam in the semi-finals before he added the first two goals in the 6-2 win over Indonesia in the final.

The six-time champions stand alone as the AFF Championship's most successful side. There is little doubt Thailand are once again the team to beat in 2022.



## TOURNAMENT RECORD:

- *Champions 2018, 2008*
- *Runners-up 1998*
- *Third place 2002, 1996*
- *Semi-finals 2020, 2016, 2014, 2010, 2007, 2000*
- *Group stage 2012, 2004*

## NICKNAME:

*Những Chiến binh Sao Vàng  
(The Golden Star Warriors)*

## HEAD COACH:

*Park Hang-seo  
(Korea Republic)*

# VIETNAM

Vietnam will be intent on returning to the summit of Southeast Asian football once again when they begin their AFF Mitsubishi Electric Cup 2022 journey in Group B.

The Golden Stars Warriors' title defence was halted in the semi-finals of the 2020 AFF Championship by eventual winners Thailand, ending a campaign that fell somewhat short of 2018 when they emerged victors unbeaten.

Then, veteran striker Nguyen Anh Duc gave Vietnam a 1-0 win against Malaysia in Hanoi, after the first leg finished 2-2 in Kuala Lumpur, handing the ASEAN title to the men in red and sparking celebrations across the country.

That victory added to the title they won a decade earlier when Vietnam legend Le Cong Vinh scored home and away in the final against Thailand to help secure a 3-2 aggregate win as they became the third nation to be crowned champions.

However, the 2020 failure appears to be a minor blip in what have been years of steady progress under Korean tactician Park Hang-seo.

After taking charge in 2017, Park led the country to the runners-up spot at the AFC U-23 Championship in 2018 before many of those young players featured in the AFF Championship-winning team later that year.

Their stock has risen in the continental stage, too, after making the quarter-finals of the 2019 AFC Asian Cup and more recently the final round of the 2022 FIFA World Cup qualifiers and booking a place in the 2023 AFC Asian Cup.

The two-time champions boast a solid record in the AFF Championship, making the semi-finals all but two times since 1996. They also finished runners-up under Alfred Riedl in 1998.

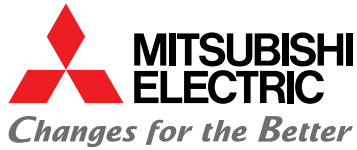
With a generational talent in Nguyen Quang Hai at his disposal, Park will look to lift the AFF Mitsubishi Electric Cup in what will be his final tournament in charge of Vietnam.

Vietnam will open their campaign against Laos before hosting Malaysia. They then travel to Singapore to take on the Lions and end the group stage with a home game against Myanmar.



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