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KOTA KINABALU: Thailand was the overall champion at the 3rd Asian University Taekwondo Championship, which ended at the Chancellor Hall in UMS on Saturday.

The team dominated the competition with their total haul of seven golds, two silvers and one bronze to take the overall title in the nine teams competition.

They also won the male medal tally with four golds as well as the female medal tally with three golds, one silver and one bronze.

The runner-up in the overall title went to Kazakhstan with three golds, one silver and two bronze while Vietnam in third place with three golds, one silver and one bronze.

Hosts Malaysia came in sixth place but had the consolation of having won the most medals with seven silvers and seven bronze.

Deputy Vice Chancellor Professor Datuk Dr Kasim Md Mansur praised the competitors for their effort in promoting sportsmanship in his closing speech.

“Sportsmanship is very important and not just merely winning or losing. The satisfaction in competing is when you realise that you have tried your very best.”

He also hoped the three-day competition will help shape the athletes into highly discipline persons and at the same time help one another to understand each others culture.

More than 100 athletes took part in the competition which is jointly organised by the Ministry of Higher Education Malaysia (MOHE) and Malaysia University Sports Council (MASUM) in cooperation with UMS.

It was the first time that the country hosted such an event and the countries that participated were China, Kazakhstan, Mongolia, Nepal, Philippine, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam and Malaysia.