



SEA Games: RP improves on previous performance, finishes fifth

MEDAL TALLY (FINAL)

	G	S	B	Total
Thailand	86	83	97	266
Vietnam	83	75	57	215
Indonesia	43	53	74	170
Malaysia	40	40	59	139
Philippines	38	35	51	124
Singapore	33	30	35	98
Laos	33	25	52	110
Myanmar	12	22	37	71
Cambodia	3	10	27	40
Brunei	1	1	8	10
Timor Leste	0	0	3	3



VIENTIANE – A fighting fifth.

Bucking the odds, Team Philippines achieved its objective of improving on its previous finish in the Southeast Asian Games, copping a total of 38 gold medals for a strong fifth place finish at the close of the 10-day, 11-nation meet which Laos hosted for the first time.

Tennis star Cecil Mamiit bagged the last gold medal for the Filipinos by winning the men's singles event for the third straight time, beating Treat Huey, 4-6, 6-3, 7-6, in an all-RP final.

The country won a total of 43 golds in the 2007 SEA Games in Thailand for a sixth place finish – its worst since joining the region's biggest sports spectacle in 1977.

Although their output was five gold medals short this time, the Filipinos only saw action in 24 of the 28 events at stake in this 25th edition of the biennial meet.

The Philippines finished just two golds behind fourth place Malaysia, and five behind third place and 2011 host Indonesia.

Team Philippines Chef De Mission Mario Tanchangco gave tribute to the Filipino athletes' achievements.

"Despite all the distractions, lumaban pa rin tayo. This is a tribute to the athletes' will and resiliency," Tanchangco said.

The 33-year old Mamiit is definitely one of the stars for Team Philippines, joining swimmer Miguel Molina, golfer Chihiro Ikeda and cue artist Rubilen Amit among the double gold medal winners for the country. The Fil-Am netter also bagged a gold in the men's team event he shared with teammates Patrick John Tierro, Johnny Arcilla and Huey.

To athletics belongs the distinction of winning the most number of golds for the Philippines with seven (two of them setting new SEA Games records), followed by boxing with five, and taekwondo and swimming with four each.

Also delivering golds were wrestling and billiards with three each; tennis, wushu, judo and golf with two each; muay, karatedo, archery and shooting with one each.

Diving, weightlifting, pencak silat, water polo, sepak takraw, table tennis and petanque contributed a bronze each.

Thailand retained the overall championship with 86 golds, nosing out Vietnam by just three golds in what was one of the closest medal races ever for SEA Games supremacy.

