

## **POKERSTARS SIGNS TWO NEW TEAM PROS FROM INDIA AND JAPAN**

*Asian ambassadors highlights global expansion of the game*

ONCHAN, Isle of Man – January 6, 2015 – PokerStars today announced the signing of the site’s first Team Pro from India, along with a second sponsored player from Japan, highlighting the ongoing growth of poker around the world.

Aditya Agarwal is the first Indian Team Pro, having shown demonstrable success in PokerStars’ biggest online tournaments, while Kosei Ichinose is the second Japanese Team Pro (Naoya Kihara is already a member of Team PokerStars Pro Online), having previously become Japan’s first Supernova Elite player.

Kirsty Thompson, PokerStars’ Head of Pro & Celebrity Management, said: “The signing of these Team Pros from India and Japan is an important step in helping promote the game in countries where poker is only just coming to the fore. Both players are highly respected within the poker sphere, and their success and passion for the game will no doubt spread throughout their local and national communities.”

### **ADITYA AGARWAL**

The Indian poker player grew up in India but moved to the US to study Engineering and Marketing. While in university he caught the poker bug after watching it on TV, and by the time he graduated he was already a full-time pro.

Agarwal has enjoyed poker success in all formats, including a deep run in the World Series of Poker Main Event in 2008, finishing in the top 100 for \$51,466, and a cash finish at EPT Barcelona in 2007 for \$34,313. He has also won several tournaments and made final tables in events across India.

Adarwal said: “I’ve been playing at PokerStars since 2004, so this is a dream come true for me. As a poker ambassador I want to help promote the game in India, and inspire more players to play and enjoy the sport.”

Adarwal will play under the online username ‘Adi Agarwal’.

### **KOSEI ICHINOSE**

Kosei began playing poker in 2006 while studying in Canada and the English and Business student never looked back, with successful results in PokerStars SCOOP, WCOOP and Sunday Major events, and first-place finishes in APPT, Macau Millions and

Red Dragon live events in Asia. He now competes in the toughest MTTs, Omaha and Mixed Games online at PokerStars.

Ichinose said: "I'm proud to be associated with PokerStars as I have achieved so much in the game by playing on the site. I now look forward to helping spread the popularity of poker in Asia and representing the brand at major international tournaments like the upcoming Aussie Millions later this month."

Ichinose will play on PokerStars under the username 'K. Ichinose'.

### **AUSSIE MILLIONS**

Both players will make their PokerStars-sponsored debut at the Aussie Millions festival, which is held in the Crown Casino, Melbourne, later this month, and are expected to take their seats in the AU \$10,600 Main Event, which runs from January 25 to February 1.

For full bios of both players go to <http://www.pokerstars.com/team-pokerstars/aditya-agarwal/> and <http://www.pokerstars.com/team-pokerstars/kosei-ichinose/>.

For further information, please contact: [press@pokerstars.com](mailto:press@pokerstars.com).

### **About PokerStars**

PokerStars operates the world's most popular online poker sites, serving the global poker community. Since it launched in 2001, PokerStars has become the first choice of players all over the world, with more daily tournaments than anywhere else and with the best security online. More than 120 billion hands have been dealt on PokerStars, which is more than any other site.

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PokerStars is a member of The Rational Group, which operates gaming-related businesses and brands, including PokerStars, Full Tilt and the European Poker Tour. In 2012, 2013 and 2014, Rational Group companies in the UK and Isle of Man won recognition as one of the best workplaces in the UK being awarded a top 25 position by the Great Place to Work Institute's Best Workplaces – Large category rankings. Rational Group entities in Costa Rica and Dublin also achieved the same accolade in their respective local rankings in 2014. PokerStars is owned by Amaya Inc. (TSX: AYA).