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## MEDIA RELEASE

**EMBARGOED TILL 1PM, 31<sup>st</sup> March 2010**

### **Singapore Table Tennis Association (STTA) and Beijing Sport University (BSU) to strengthen ties in the areas of sport talent exchanges and academic sports advancement**

Singapore Table Tennis Association (STTA) and Beijing Sport University (BSU) are signing a Memorandum of Understanding on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2010 to develop friendly relations and to formalize the commitment towards sports collaboration in the areas of sports talent exchanges and academic sports advancement.

Founded in 1953, the Beijing Sport University (BSU) is known to be one of the best and key sports universities in China and is also recognised as one of the best in the world. BSU has made great contributions towards the development of Chinese Sports and physical education and has produced more than 30,000 graduates in sport management over the last 50 years.

The MOU caters to high-level sports delegation visits and exchange programmes for athletes, sports personnel and sports management from both organizations to learn and develop table tennis. This cooperation may extend to athletes for the use of Singapore and China as their training hubs to prepare for international competitions.

A key area of cooperation under the MOU is for BSU to provide academic pursuits for our current and retired National paddlers. STTA hopes to send our current and retired National paddlers to pursue higher learning studies and to graduate with degrees or masters from BSU. BSU will award scholarships to our National paddlers who have displayed academic and sports excellence. Furthermore, our athletes will be awarded preferential admission into the Beijing Sports University.

"This MOU formalizes our commitment to share knowledge and enhance our mutual capabilities in the development of table tennis in Singapore," said Er Lee Bee Wah Member of Parliament for Ang Mo Kio GRC & President, STTA.

"Through stronger cooperation, we hope to see greater achievements of performance and academic sports advancement for both countries. Furthermore, I am proud to announce that our National paddler, Li Jiawei has recently completed two Masters courses at BSU on Sports Psychology and Sports Nutrition. She will continue her Masters programme at BSU after the 2012 London Olympics."

Mr Chi Jian, the Vice President of the BSU, said that the BSU was glad to work with the STTA. "We are very pleased to work with STTA and it is time to make our relationship official. The MOU will present us with more opportunities to share and learn from each other. I am confident that athletes, coaches and officials from Singapore and China will benefit substantially from our collaboration efforts," he said.

The signing of MOU will take place in Beijing at the Beijing Sports University, China on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2010. Ms Wong Hui Leng, STTA Chief Executive Officer, STTA and Mr Chi Jian, Vice President, Beijing Sports University will sign the MOU while Mr Lee Yi Shyan, Minister of State, Ministry of Trade and Industry & Ministry of Manpower, Mr Teo Ser Luck, Senior Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Community Development, Youth and Sports & Ministry of Transport together with Er. Lee Bee Wah, Member of Parliament for Ang Mo Kio GRC and President of STTA will witness the signing.

Beijing Sport University (BSU)

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The address of BSU on the World Wide Web: [www.bsu.edu.cn](http://www.bsu.edu.cn)

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