



29 April 2017

MEDIA RELEASE

Singapore Table Tennis Association (STTA) announces new appointments for national coaches

The STTA will be making several changes to its national coaching structure with the aim of further developing crucial aspects of Singapore table tennis.

Ms Ellen Lee PBM, President of STTA says, “The coaching changes are made to make a positive difference and to further strengthen our national squads. I trust that the coaching changes will provide our paddlers from the national team and intermediate squad the opportunity to grow and achieve greater success.”

National Men’s Team

As of 1st May 2017, Liu Jiayi head coach of the men’s team will be appointed as the Team Leader of the coaching team (national men’s & women’s team). Liu will provide guidance and leadership to the team of national coaches; in addition to his head coach duties to the men’s team.

Liu said, “I feel very fortunate that I will have the chance to work with a group of enthusiastic coaches. There is a lot of work to be done and our coaches must work closely together to face all the challenges. As the team leader, I will promote a collaborative and high performing working team where members of the coaching team will support one another.”

The STTA is excited to announce another new appointment - Coach Zhang Zhen, 36 years old, is appointed as the new assistant coach for the national men’s team and intermediate squad. Coach Zhang was a former youth coach at the Poland Zielona Góra Table Tennis Club, 2008 to 2010 and Zhengding, China Table Tennis Training Centre from 2010 to 2016.

Gao Ning, assistant coach cum player will continue to play an important role in assisting Coach Liu in the coaching duties for the men’s team.

National Women's Team

Since February 2017, the STTA has been headhunting for the women's team coach after the departure of Coach Chen Zhibin. The STTA was looking for a suitable candidate who knows the inner workings of the team and the sport.

It is agreed that Hao Anlin is a good candidate to lead the women's team. Hao has been supporting the women's team since 2005 and has a great working relationship with the women's team. Hao has developed bonds with the young players: Lin Ye and Zhou Yihan when they were under his charge as the assistant coach. The athletes see him as a good coach and enjoy working with him. In addition, Hao is also very familiar with the technical aspects of our women's team and opponents which makes him an ideal candidate for the head coach position.

With effect from 1st May 2017, Hao Anlin will be appointed as the head coach of the women's team. Hao Anlin said, "I am grateful to STTA and Sports Singapore for their trust and confidence in me. I have worked with the national team for many years and this opportunity will allow me to prove myself at the international level. For now I am fully focused on preparing the team for the upcoming Southeast Asian Games in August 2017."

He added, "I will continue to work hard and demonstrate that I am ready to lead the national women's team beyond 2017. I believe in the direction of the national team and I will continue to identify more young talents as part of the rejuvenation process."

Meanwhile, the STTA is in the process of hiring an assistant coach for the women's team.

Ellen Lee PBM approves the new appointments and says, "Hao Anlin is dedicated and passionate for the game and I believe his many years working with the women's team have prepared him well for the role. Liu Jiayi is a veteran coach and as the newly appointed Team Leader of the coaching team, he will be able to share his coaching and mentoring skills with the other coaches. Now that we have a good and structured coaching team in place, I am looking forward to bringing our plans to fruition."

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