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MEDIA RELEASE

STTA Annual Awards Night: Celebrating Table Tennis Achievements of 2017

EMBARGOED TILL 15 MARCH 2018, 10PM

The Singapore Table Tennis Association (STTA) celebrated the sporting excellence of outstanding athletes and coaches who have made contributions to table tennis at the STTA Annual Awards Night.

This year, 5 STTA Awards were conferred to athletes and coaches with standout performances:

- The Most Improved Zone Training Centre Award 2017
- Outstanding Zone Training Centre Award 2017
- STTA Hopes Player of the Year 2017
- STTA Junior Player of the Year 2017
- STTA Player of the Year 2017

(Refer to Appendix A for details on the STTA Awards and award recipients)

The STTA also gave out a special High Performance Training Support Grant to Goi Ruixuan, a member of the Intermediate Squad. Ruixuan took a crucial step to suspend her studies in order to train full-time, following the national team schedule in order to qualify for the 2018 Youth Olympics Games and 2019 SEA Games. Hence, the STTA would like to support her with a training support grant of \$8200 over 2 years.

Ellen Lee Geck Hoon PBM, President, STTA said, "The STTA awards are to recognize the contributions and achievements of our athletes and coaches. Coaches make a positive impact in our athletes and are trusted with helping to shape the youth of tomorrow through their hard work and guidance. We hope that the awards will spur our coaches to achieve even greater heights. "

She added, "" Our athletes also made incredible achievements in 2017, and these achievements were made possible because of their hard work, resilience and dedication Beyond the medal achievements, I am glad that Team Singapore paddlers have also inspired us with their Singapore spirit. Our award recipients serve as an inspiration and role model to other young aspiring athletes and a source of national pride for all Singaporeans. My heartiest congratulations to our award recipients for their outstanding performances!"

Appendix A –STTA Awards and Award Winners

The Most Improved Zone Training Centre Award 2017 & Outstanding Zone Training Centre Award 2017

The Zone Training Centres plays an important role in laying a solid foundation for young athletes.

We would like to acknowledge the efforts our zone training centre coaches. We hope that the award will encourage our zone training centre coaches to accomplish even greater results in the years ahead.

There were two zone training centres that have achieved good progress and attendance at their training centres.

The Most Improved Zone Training Centre of the Year: Toa Payoh Zone Training Centre: Coach Zhao Peng / Sun Panlei.

Outstanding Zone Training Centre Award 2017: Bishan Zone Training Centre: Zhou Wenyong & Coach Hu Yawen.

STTA Hopes Player of the Year 2017

The STTA Hopes Player of the Year Award is the nation's highest accolade for junior paddlers.

This award honours exceptional young junior paddlers because of their achievements and distinctions to the nation.

Zhou Jingyi at the age of 12 years is already making her mark amongst the international table tennis fraternity. She made history for Singapore by being the first Singaporean to win the ITTF World Hopes Week & Challenge 2017.

She won two bronze medals in the cadet events for her first outing at the 23rd South East Asian Junior & Cadet Table Tennis Championships, her other wins include winning the ITTF HOPES singles title at the ITTF Thailand Junior & Cadet Open 2017 & ITTF Portugal Junior & Cadet Open 2017. The STTA is proud to honour Zhou Jingyi with the STTA Hopes Player of the Year for her contributions.

STTA Youth Player of the Year 2017

The STTA Junior Player of the Year 2017 recognises the excellence and achievements of an outstanding youth player.

Koeng Pang, 15 years old had a stellar performance in 2017. His accolade of achievements for year 2017 include:

- triple champion in the cadet category (singles, doubles and team) at the 23rd South East Asian Junior & Cadet Table Tennis Championships.
- won the Cadet Singles event and finished second in the Junior Singles event at the ITTF India Junior & Cadet Open

Koen is the youngest Singapore table tennis player to compete at the upcoming Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games and he is a member of the Youth Olympics Games squad.

STTA Player of the Year

It is the most prestigious award given to recognize, honor our national paddles, whom have made table tennis their passion, career and life. Pang Xuejie is a member of the national team since he was 18 years old. At the SEA Games 2017, he finished with 1 gold (men's doubles), 2 silvers (men's teams & mixed doubles).

He also has a good partnership with his team mate Gao Ning and the doubles pair are world rank no. 6. Xuejie's success as a doubles partner includes finishing second at the 2017 ITTF Challenge, Thailand Open. The pair also finished Top 16 at the 2017 World Table Tennis Championships and qualified for the doubles event for the World Tour Grand Finals and finished Top 8. The STTA is proud to honour Pang Xuejie with the STTA Player of the Year for his achievements.

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