



9 June 2014

MEDIA RELEASE

A MILLION DOLLAR TRUST FUND IS SET UP TO SPUR LOCAL TABLE TENNIS TALENTS TO ACHIEVE THEIR OLYMPICS DREAM.

The STTA desires to do everything possible to encourage our local born national paddlers to become the best and it is our wish to see our local born national paddlers in future Olympic squads. For this reason, the STTA hopes to provide many opportunities to our local born national paddlers to achieve their Olympics dream and with this \$1 million dollar trust fund; we hope to create a long term stability plan for our local born national paddlers.

Hence, STTA is grateful to Dato' Sri Prof. Dr Tahir and Associates for donating the \$1 million towards the **"STTA – Dr Tahir & Associates Future Ready Trust Fund"** to help our local born national paddlers who have represented Singapore at the Olympics.

This extraordinary gift from Dato' Sri Prof. Dr Tahir and Associates will motivate our local born national paddlers to aim for the Olympics and will help to set the Singapore Table Tennis on course towards achieving more sporting success. At the same time, this cash gift is the largest philanthropic gift from an individual in the history of Singapore Table Tennis.

The **"STTA – Dr Tahir & Associates Future Ready Trust Fund"** aims:

- to motivate our local born national paddlers to scale greater heights and ultimately representing Singapore at the Olympics.
- to finance our local born national paddlers to a University education (local/foreign) or further learning opportunities after their stint with STTA so long as they have represent Singapore at the Olympics 2016 and/or beyond.
- to reward our local born national paddlers for their continued commitment and dedication

The driving force behind the trust fund is the desire to ensure that no promising local born national paddlers, committed to chasing his/her sporting dreams, should be hampered by financial or post-career considerations. Besides, the **"STTA – Dr Tahir & Associates Future Ready Trust Fund"** will provide financial assistance and support our local born national paddlers require after their sporting careers.

"We are deeply grateful for Dr. Tahir's generous contribution to STTA" says Er. Dr. Lee Bee Wah, Member of Parliament for Nee Soon GRC & President, STTA. "It is never easy to encourage local talents to pursue sport professionally and Dr. Tahir's gift to STTA will greatly improve our ability to achieve this goal. Most importantly, we hope that the **"STTA – Dr Tahir & Associates Future Ready Trust Fund"** will spur our local talents to dream big and it is my wish for them to represent Singapore at the Olympics in the near future."

"I am a table tennis enthusiast and I am very happy to contribute to Singapore table tennis. What is more, I hope that the **"STTA – Dr Tahir & Associates Future Ready Trust Fund"** will encourage our local born national paddlers to scale greater heights and represent Singapore at the world's largest sporting event. For most athletes, competing at the Olympic Games is the pinnacle of their career. To reach the Games, the athletes must have made many sacrifices and have dedicated both time and energy to their sport. For this reason, I would like to give back to these dedicated athletes by providing them financial assistance and support to prepare them for the life after their sports career," said Dr Tahir, Founder and Executive Chairman of Mayapada Group

About Dato' Sri Prof. DR Tahir.MBA

Dr Tahir is the Founder and Executive Chairman of the Indonesia-based conglomerate, Mayapada Group. He earned his business degree from Golden Gate University's satellite location in Indonesia in 1988. While taking classes, he launched a textile manufacturing business called the Mayapada Group, which has since expanded into finance, retail, health care, real estate, and media. One of its main enterprises, Bank Mayapada founded in 1990, has grown steadily and went public on the Jakarta Stock Exchange in 1997. With foreign investment partners from the U.S., United Arab Emirates, and Singapore, the bank now operates more than 170 branches throughout Indonesia.

Dr Tahir's Singapore owned company, Grace Shine Private Limited is the official sponsor of Singapore National Table Tennis Team.

About STTA

Singapore Table Tennis Association (STTA) is a National Sports Association affiliated to the Singapore National Olympic Council (SNOC) and Sport Singapore (SS). Our mission is to develop world class table tennis players by identifying, nurturing and motivating aspiring table-tennis talents to become the best that they could be. STTA is also committed to promoting table tennis vigorously by building a significant number of table tennis players to help make a vibrant sporting Singapore. Our vision is to make table tennis the most popular game in Singapore.

Visit www.stta.org.sg.