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## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **National Paddler Yang Zi retiring due to injuries**

The 32 year old Yang Zi began his career with Singapore Table Tennis Association (STTA) in year 2003. He became a citizen in 2005 and has brought many sporting achievements for Singapore in the last 11 years.

Yang has represented Singapore in the 2008 Beijing and 2012 London Olympics. As a singles player, he has achieved a highest world ranking of 21 in January 2008.

Yang's notable achievements include pairing with Gao Ning in the doubles at the Asian Championships. The pair created history at the Asian Championships 2012 by clinching the gold medal in the men's doubles event. This is Singapore's first title at the biennial tournament since 1954, when Loh Heng Chew and Poon Weng Hoe won the men's doubles on home soil.

Yang was also part of the team that finished top 8 at the London Olympics 2012, and he clinched 3 golds (men's team, men's singles and mixed doubles) and 1 silver (men's doubles) at the 2010 Commonwealth Games.

#### **His recent achievements also include:**

2015 SEA Games - Men's Team Gold, Mixed Doubles Gold

2015 Asian Championships – Mixed Doubles Silver

2014 Commonwealth Games – Men's Team Gold, Men's Doubles Bronze

2014 World Team Championships – Men's Team Joint 5th

Yang Zi said, "Unfortunately my neck has been degenerating and I have undergone rehabilitation for several months now but there is still no improvement, so I am left with no choice but to retire from professional table tennis .

While I'm disappointed that my table tennis career has come to an end but I am excited about what lies ahead. I have recently completed the ITTF coaching course and I will be joining my parents' table tennis academy to help Singapore to groom more young talents.

Finally, I am also extremely grateful to STTA, Sport Singapore and Singapore National Olympic Council for giving me this opportunity and I wish the Singapore team every success for the year ahead.

Ellen Lee PBM, President of STTA, says “We would like to thank Yang Zi for his contributions to Singapore. While he will not be playing for Singapore anymore, he will be contributing to Singapore by grooming the young paddlers in his parents’ table tennis academy. We would like take this opportunity to wish him all the best.”

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