



## MEDIA RELEASE

### STTA UNVEILS PLANS FOR YEAR 2013

First and Foremost, we would like to announce that Li Jiawei will be officially retiring from her sport and her last day of service with Singapore Table Tennis Association will be on the 31 December 2012.

As a singles player, Jiawei achieved her highest world ranking in December 2005, when she was third. Her best achievements included finishing in fourth place in singles at both the 2004 Summer Olympics in Athens and the 2008 Summer Olympics in Beijing. In 2008, the Singapore women's team composed of Li and her teammates Feng Tianwei and Wang Yuegu defeated South Korea 3–2 in the semifinals, marking the first time that Singapore had won an Olympic medal since 1960. In 2010, Li Jiawei was part of the women's team that defeated the defending champion China at the World Team Table Tennis Championships 2010. At the recent London 2012 Olympic Games, Li won the women's team bronze medal together with Tianwei and Yuegu.

The Singapore Table Tennis Association (STTA) would like to take this opportunity to thank her for her outstanding service. Since 1998, Jiawei has lead the Singapore team to numerous victories and brought many sporting glory to Singapore. Despite taking time to start off a family in 2009, Jiawei has shown great dedication and fighting spirit for her sport and is a true inspiration for all Singaporeans.

Secondly, Sun Beibei will also be retiring as a player and she will be contributing back to Singapore by being a coach to the youth players in our School within School Programme at the Singapore Sports School. Beibei was part of the Singapore trio - Feng Tianwei and Wang Yuegu that beat the table tennis giant China 3-1 at the World Team Table Tennis Championships final 2010 to emerge as the world champions. We would also like to thank Sun Beibei for her sporting contributions to Singapore. Furthermore, we would like to congratulate Beibei on becoming a mother soon.

With the retirement of our two women paddlers, our immediate plan is to raise the standards of younger players like Isabelle Li and Yu Mengyu to reach that of the seniors like Li Jiawei, Sun Beibei and Wang Yuegu. This is not an easy task but our young players possess the desire to surpass their predecessors and have an unwavering focus on that goal to get them through all the challenges and obstacles.

Finally, we are pleased to announce that our men's coach Yang Chuan Ning will be renewing his contract with STTA for another 4 years. Coach Yang Chuan Ning, a Jiangsu native, started leading the men's team in August 2010. Under his guidance, our men's team has captured the men's team and men's singles gold for the first time at the Delhi 2010 XIX Commonwealth Games. Furthermore, our men players: Gao Ning and Yang Zi created history at the Asian Championships 2012 by scoring 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. We are also pleased to announce that our men's team has the best finish (Top 8 position) at the recent London Olympic Games,

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