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MEDIA RELEASE

STTA Annual Awards Night, 10th edition: Celebrating Table Tennis Achievements in 2021

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

This year, 7 STTA Awards were conferred to athletes and coaches with sterling performances:

- Special Award, Junior Category (1 award)
- Special Awards, Senior Category (2 awards)
- Outstanding Zone Training Centre Award 2021
- STTA Coach of the Year 2021
- STTA Youth Player of the Year 2021
- STTA Star Player of the Year 2021

(Refer to Appendix A for details of the STTA Awards and Award recipients)

Ellen Lee Geck Hoon, JP, PBM, President of STTA said, “There were so much uncertainties in the last 2 years because of the COVID-19 pandemic. In 2020 and 2021, many of our international competitions were put on hold with a possibility that the deferred Tokyo Olympics 2020 might again be cancelled. Despite all adversities, our athletes and coaches were resilient and they persevered.

Our youths achieved success at several of the WTT Youth Contenders and ITTF World Youth Championships. Clarence Chew made history by becoming the first Singapore-born male table tennis player to qualify for the men's singles competition at the Tokyo Olympics 2020. Our senior player, Yu Mengyu, battled on despite her injuries and finished Top 4 in her singles event in the Tokyo Olympics 2020.

Tonight was a special night and the STTA awards were handed out to pay tribute to these athletes and their coaches for fighting harder than usual and we applauded them for coming this far. We are extremely proud of them!”

Yu Mengyu will retire from the National Team from 1 April 2022. She will be appointed as the Assistant Coach for the STTA Junior Development Squad for high potential athletes aged 9 to 12 years old.

Yu represented Singapore in 2006 and received her Singapore citizenship in 2007, beginning a successful career that propelled her to a career-best world No. 9 in March 2010 and September 2016 respectively.

Yu said, "This is the right time for me to retire and I have always indicated my priority would be to continue to work with STTA who has been nurturing me all these years. Looking back at the past 16 years of my athletic career, they were filled with touching moments and honours. Today is a very important moment in my life. From now on, I will open a new chapter of my life. I am happy to be given the opportunity to my best for the younger generation of table tennis players."

She added, "I want to share my experiences with them and groom these young athletes into Champions for Singapore. I will keep adhering to the tenacious and indomitable sportsmanship which is crucial to success, and I hope to convey more positive energy to others and to society at large!"

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Appendix A –STTA Awards and Award Winners

Outstanding Zone Training Centre Award 2021

Our Zone Training Centres (ZTC) play an important role in laying a solid foundation for our young athletes. Our ZTC coaches are entrusted to make a positive impact on our young athletes and to shape the youths of tomorrow through their hard work and guidance.

The Outstanding ZTC Award 2021 goes to Toa Payoh Zone Training Centre Coaches: Zhao Peng (Head Coach) and Liu Peng (Assistant Coach).

We hope that this Award will spur all our coaches to achieve even greater heights for their respective ZTCs.

Special Award (Junior Category): Ser Lin Qian

This Special Award goes to Ser Lin Qian in recognition of her bronze medal win at the U15 Girls' Singles event at the ITTF World Youth Championships.

This is the first medal win in the Girls' Singles at the ITTF World Youth Championships for Singapore.

Special Award (Senior Category): Clarence Chew

Clarence Chew made history by becoming the first Singapore-born male table tennis player to qualify for the Men's Singles competition at the Tokyo Olympics 2020.

Clarence finished in the second round of the Men's Singles at the Tokyo Olympics 2020.

This is an important milestone for STTA and the table tennis sport in Singapore.

Special Award (Senior Category): Gao Ning

In 2019, Gao Ning stepped up and became the National Coach for STTA's Men's Team.

Under his charge, Clarence Chew became the first Singapore born male athlete to qualify for the Tokyo Olympics 2020 Games.

STTA Coach of the Year 2021: Hao Anlin

Hao Anlin led the women's team to finish Top 8 and Yu Mengyu Top 4 in her Singles event in the Tokyo Olympics 2020.

Hao also led our younger generation of women players in the 2021 Asian Table Tennis Championships. Under his charge, our National Women's Team repeated their Bronze Medal win from the previous edition in 2019.

STTA Youth Player of the Year 2021: Izaac Quek

The STTA Youth Player of the Year 2021 recognizes the excellence and achievements of an outstanding youth player.

Izaac Quek's accolade of achievements include two Bronzes (Singles & Doubles) at the ITTF World Youth Championships as well as finishing top in the U19 Singles event in the WTT Youth Contender Competition in Hungary.

He also captured the Under-15 Boys' Singles crown in the WTT Youth Contender Competition in Italy.

In April 2021, Izaak amazingly reached No. 1 in the Under-15 boys' World Ranking.

STTA Star Player of the Year 2021: Yu Mengyu

This is the most prestigious award to recognize and honour our National Paddlers who have made table tennis their passion, career and life.

Yu Mengyu finished Top 4 in the Singles event at the Tokyo Olympics 2020 despite suffering from injuries. She fought her way through to the Olympics' Women's Singles event, beating Chinese Taipei's World No. 8, Cheng I-Ching, and Japan's World No. 10, Kasumi Ishikawa, en route to finishing fourth. It was such a great comeback for Yu as she has suffered back injuries in the earlier part of the year.

While she did not win a medal in the end, she won the applause and respect of Singaporeans. And that is the Singapore spirit, to keep going and never give up.

The STTA is proud to honour Yu with the STTA Star Player of the Year 2021 for her stellar achievements.