

24 February 2017

For Immediate Release

### **Day 1 – Esther Lai delivers Singapore’s first medal on Opening Day in Korat**

KORAT – Singapore opened accounts at the Asian Junior and Cadet Fencing Championships 2017 (AJCFC) with bronze from Esther Lai in the girls’ Cadet Epee individual competition.

The 16-year-old JC1 student from Raffles Institution repeated her achievement from last year’s AJCFC in Bahrain in what is her final year in this age group.

Emerging as top seed from the poules, Esther earned a bye in the Round of 64 and fought her way into the final four with wins over fencers from Japan (R32 – score 15-14), Jordan (R16 – 11-9), and Chinese Taipei (QF – 15-14)

Against Tracy Lee of Hong Kong, Esther fell behind early before losing 15-11 to settle for the bronze medal.

Commenting on her result, Esther expressed disappointment at falling in the semi-finals to Tracy, whom she was meeting for the first time.

“I thought I could do better but I’m happy to have secured the first medal for Team Singapore at this tournament,” she said.

“This is my final year in Cadet and I look forward to better results in the Junior ranks next season.

“I still have the Cadet team event and Junior events here in Korat, and will take encouragement from today’s performance.”

Two other Team Singapore athletes, Kiria Tikanah Abdul Rahman and Rebecca Ong, made it to the Round of 16.

Day 1 also featured the boy’s Cadet Sabre individual event, with Singapore’s Sean Koh and Danial Haqim Sophian making the Round of 64, while Jorelle See and Ahmad Huzaifah Saharudin reaching the Round of 32.

Hong Kong won both gold medals on offer on Day 1 with Kaylin Hsieh winning the girls’ Cadet Epee, while Terence Lee topped the podium in the boys’ Cadet Sabre.

The AJCFC2017 will feature more than 700 fencers from 27 Asian countries in both juniors and cadets events. The last Asian Junior and Cadet Championships was held in Bahrain/Saudi Arabia in February/March 2016.

At the last edition of the AJCFC in Bahrain/Saudi Arabia, our Junior fencers returned with 1 silver and 4 bronzes, while the Cadets brought home 3 gold, 2 silver and 4 bronze medals. This was one of Singapore's best historical showing.



3 Stadium Drive  
NSA Office  
Singapore 397630  
Tel/Fax: +65 6702 3740  
Website: [fencingsingapore.org.sg](http://fencingsingapore.org.sg)

**For media queries, please contact:**

Ms Chong Yi Mei (General Manager) / Ms Juliana Seow (President)

Tel: (65) 97908252 / Tel: (65) 90215311

Email : [fsgm@fencingsingapore.org.sg](mailto:fsgm@fencingsingapore.org.sg) / [president@fencingsingapore.org.sg](mailto:president@fencingsingapore.org.sg)

*Fencing Singapore (formerly known as "Amateur Fencing Association of Singapore") was established in 1955 and is the national governing body for the sport of fencing. Currently, there are 5000 fencers in the fencing community. By actively participating in international competitions, organising international events and promoting the sport to more youths, Fencing Singapore aims to raise the profile of the sport and to achieve medals at the highest levels of global competition. More information about the sport can be found at <http://fencingsingapore.org.sg>*