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For Immediate Release

Asian Junior and Cadet Fencing Championships 2017
February 24 – March 5
Korat, Thailand

Day 10 – Team Singapore wrap up Asian Juniors with minor placings

KORAT – Team Singapore wrapped up their Asian Junior and Cadet Championships 2017 (AJCFC2017) campaign with fencers featuring in the Men's Epee and Women's Sabre and Foil team events.

And having started the Junior competition with a bang earlier this week, with Esther Lau winning Singapore's first ever Asian Junior gold medal – in the Women's Individual Epee – the team has competed well against their regional competitors but failed to advance into the medal rounds.

The men's epee team of Jefferson Cheong, Samuel Lee, Neville Lim and Tan Weixuan started the day well, with a morale-boosting 45-33 win over Hong Kong.

Against Australia in the quarter-finals, the team could not come back after falling behind early, and went down 33-45.

Relegated to the battle for 5th to 8th places, the quartet scored a remarkable 42-21 win over Saudi Arabia in the extra period, having come back from what seemed an impossible position in the last three bouts. But they were unable to pull off the feat a second time, losing 31-45 to Chinese Taipei to finish in 6th place.

The Women's Foil team were came up against Japan in the quarter-finals, and lost 26-45. But the team comprising Nicole Wong, Amita Berthier, Maxine Wong and Tatiana Wong bounced back with wins over Vietnam (45-18) and South Korea (45-38) to finish in 5th place.

Their Women's Sabre team-mates of Jolie Lee, Candice Lee and Nicole Wee had to contend with fencing without Cadet World Champion Lau Ywen, who had returned to Singapore due to a back injury. And they started in the Round of 16 by edging Vietnam 45-44.

It was during this match that Jolie felt a twinge in her hamstring, though she continued fencing on through the day after receiving treatment.

Against South Korea in the quarter-finals, the trio fell behind mid-match and could not prevent South Korea from pressing on for a 45-35 victory.

Fencing in the positional matches, the Sabre team endured a nervy 45-43 win before losing their final match of the tournament 36-45 to Kazakhstan to be placed 6th.

Team Singapore would end this AJCFC 2017 campaign with six bronze medals in Cadet competition –individual ones for Esther Lai (Girls’ Epee), Darren Tan (Boys’ Foil), Lau Ywen (Girls’ Sabre), and Maxine Wong (Girls’ Foil), and team medals from Girls’ Epee and Sabre – and a breakthrough gold medal from Esther in the Junior Individual Women’s Epee.

Summing up this campaign, Fencing Singapore president Ms Juliana Seow said: “Achieving a historic gold medal at this AJCFC 2017 sends a signal to our youth that Singapore fencers can make their mark on the Asian fencing scene.

“As with any sports, our end game is to better prepare our youths on their way to the senior ranks, and we have a bright future with this current generation and have great hope for bigger and better achievements to come.

“While the road ahead will not be easy, we believe that together with our community of fencers, parents and coaches, and strong support from Sport Singapore and the Singapore Sports Institute, fencing will continue to move in the right direction.”

The 10-day AJCFC 2017 featured more than 700 fencers from 27 Asian countries in both juniors and cadets events.

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

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 / 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>