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For Immediate Release

Asian Junior and Cadet Fencing Championships 2017

February 24 – March 5

Korat, Thailand

Day 2 – Team Singapore win two more bronze in Korat

KORAT – Day 2 at the Asian Junior and Cadet Fencing Championships (AJCFC) 2017 saw individual competition in the boys’ Cadet Foil and girls’ Cadet Sabre, with reigning cadet world champion Lau Ywen featuring in the latter.

Team Singapore sent out a full complement of four fencers in each event with all safely negotiating the poules into the direct elimination stage.

Nicole Wee, Nicole Goh and Lee Kar Moon were eliminated at the Round of 16. Ywen, meanwhile, brushed aside opponents from Uzbekistan and Chinese Taipei to set up a semi-final meeting with South Korea’s Lim Hyerim.

Facing Hyerim for a place in the final, Ywen took a slender 5-3 lead in the early going but was not able to build any momentum, as her fired-up South Korean opponent powered through for a 15-11 win.

In her final year as a cadet fencer, Ywen had to settle for a bronze medal, to add to the silver she won last year at this event.

Taking defeat on the chin, a disappointed Ywen said she “messed up and failed to land with her lunges on many occasions.”

“I performed well today, and took my mind off the pressure of fencing as a world champion by soaking in the atmosphere at the venue,” she said.

Assessing her performance, coach David Chan said the 17-year-old United World College student “fenced correctly but was not able to convert the chances she created”.

Hyerim would go on to lose 15-10 to Chan Yin Fei, who added a third gold medal for Hong Kong’s tally at this tournament.

The boys’ cadet foil saw Darren Tan producing a standout performance in reaching the semi-finals. The 17-year-old was Singapore’s best performer from the poule stage, earning himself a bye into the Round of 32.

There he beat a Korean opponent 15-11, and a fencer from Japan 15-10 in the Round of 16 to reach the final eight.

Against Hong Kong's Lee Yat Long, whom he had lost to on three previous occasions, Darren pulled off a 15-11 victory.

Facing Japan's Taro Nakamura in the semi-final, Darren kept pace but had no reply to his opponent's surge in the latter stages, especially after suffering leg cramps while 12-10 behind. The final score read 15-12 to Nakamura, who would go on to win the gold medal match with an emphatic 15-4 victory over China's Shen Weiping.

Commenting on his performance, a tired Darren said he was "happy but not contented".

"Nakamura is a very good fencer but it was still a small margin," said the JC1 student from Raffles Institution. "I learned about resetting my mindset after every bout, and competition.

"But it was satisfying to beat Tat Long from Hong Kong, having lost to him by big margins the last three times I met him."

Singapore's other fencers in the boys' cadet foil were Jonathan Au Eong (R16), Yeo Jing Zhe and Kieren Lock (both R32).

Competition continues tomorrow (Sunday 26 Feb) with Cadet competitions for Boys' Epee and Girls' Foil.

The AJCFC 2017 features 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>