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For Immediate Release

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

Day 5 – Singapore wrap up Cadet competition with a sixth bronze medal

KORAT – Day 5 at the Asian Junior and Cadet Fencing Championships (AJCFC) 2017 saw the conclusion of the Cadet (Under-17) programme, with Team competition for Girls' Sabre and Foil, and Boys' Epee.

And the Girls' Sabre team of Nicole Wee, Nicole Goh, Lee Kar Moon and Lau Ywen ensured Team Singapore featured on the podium for a fifth day running, with a well-earned bronze.

Earning a bye into the Quarter-finals by virtue of ranking, the team faced Uzbekistan without the services of their standout sabreur Lau Ywen who was stood down due to a niggling back injury. The 17-year-old had picked up the injury some months back and it returned to trouble her during the individual competition. The decision was taken to rest her ahead of the Junior competition in which she will also be taking part.

Despite her absence, Nicole Wee, Nicole Goh and Kar Moon were always ahead against Uzbekistan first up, and duly completed a 45-39 win to lock in a medal.

Against South Korea in the semi-finals, the trio refused to be cowed, as they kept the scores tight before the Koreans were able to pull away in the final two bouts to win 45-39.

Fencing Japan in the classification match for third and fourth placings, the trio again proved their mettle, scoring a decisive 45-38 victory.

For Singapore Sports School student Nicole Wee, it was a rare opportunity to play the anchor role, and she was pleased that the team managed to produce a medal-winning performance.

"I guess there is a little disappointment not to reach the final, which was within our reach," she said. "But in the absence of Ywen, our strongest fencer, we stepped up and showed we're on par, if not better, than the other countries."

Commenting on result, coach David Chan said it was a good reflection of the team as a whole. "The girls rose to the challenge today and proved they are capable of fencing toe-to-toe with the best out there," he said.

The Girls' Foil team of Denyse Chan, Rachel Lim, Tan Jia Lin and Maxine Wong started brightly with a Round of 16 win (45-9) over Kazakhstan, but found South Korea a class above them in the quarter-finals, losing 45-13.

Fencing in the classification matches, the team despatched Chinese Taipei 45-33 before coming from behind to beat the Philippines 44-41 to secure fifth placing.

The Boys' Epee team of Jefferson Cheong, Elliot Han, Austin Lu and Bron Sheum suffered a narrow 28-25 loss to Hong Kong in their opening Round of 16 match.

Relegated to the classification matches for 9th to 16th placings, the team beat Mongolia 45-31 and the Philippines 45-35, before losing 33-30 to Saudi Arabia for an eventual 10th place finish.

Team Singapore's final tally from the Cadet competition is six bronze medals, namely individual ones for Esther Lai (Girls' Epee), Darren Tan (Boys' Foil), Lau Ywen (Girls' Sabre), Maxine Wong (Girls' Foil), and team medals from Girls' Epee and Sabre.

The Junior (Under-20) competition commences tomorrow (Wednesday 1 Mar) with individual Men's Sabre and Women's Foil events.

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.

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*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>*