



Singapore Sports School director of sports Irwin Seet (from left), Minister Balakrishnan and school principal Deborah Tan at the opening of the Champions' Heritage Centre. WEE TECK HIAN

## More time to peak for sports school students

LOW LIN FHOONG  
linfhong@mediacorp.com.sg

FROM next year, budding young athletes enrolling in the Singapore Sports School will have the option of pursuing their A levels or International Baccalaureate there, beyond the current four-year GCE O levels.

The Ministry of Community Development, Youth and Sports (MCYS) revealed yesterday that the school's academic programme will be extended to six years, with students enrolling in Secondary 1 next year likely to be the first batch to be given the option of extending their stay.

Speaking to media on the sidelines of the Singapore Sports School's 5th Anniversary Celebration & Awards Night, MCYS Minister Vivian Balakrishnan said: "Over the last five years the sports school has done extremely well... it has exceeded our expectations, produced national athletes, champions at the national and international level."

"We've done well in the Olympics, I think it shows our investment in the young people of Singapore is the right one and will bear fruit."

"Providing a six-year programme allows the athletes to peak at an appropriate, optimal time, rather than to rush to do it in four years, and also provides them more academic choices."

"And that's key to what we're trying to offer here: That you can pursue a career as an athlete, you can be a champion, and you can do well academically."

"I think this will make the sports school a compelling proposition for parents and children who have the talent and who

**That's key to what we're trying to offer here: That you can pursue a career as an athlete, you can be a champion, and you can do well academically.**

Minister Balakrishnan, on the benefits of the new six-year academic programme

want to do it and have both sports and academic rigour."

The MCYS and the sports school will look into staff recruitment, development of systems, expertise and curriculum. Started in April 2004 with a cohort of 141 student athletes, the school currently has an enrolment of 418 pupils.

The school has through-train programme tie-ups with Republic Polytechnic and Nanyang Technological University.

Students also have the option to pursue a sports management and exercise diploma with the Auckland University of Technology, followed by a leisure and sports management bachelor (honours) degree at the University of Wales Institute, Cardiff.

The school's fifth Anniversary Celebration & Awards saw Minister Balakrishnan opening the Champions' Heritage Centre and awards were presented to outstanding students.

Sprinter Calvin Kang won the Outstanding Sports Achievement Award (Alumni) 2008, while two-time Sportswoman of the Year (2006, 2007) Tao Li — who qualified for the 100m butterfly final at the Beijing Olympics — won the Outstanding Female Student of the Year for 2008.

Table tennis ace Pang Xue Jie was named Outstanding Male Student of the Year 2008.

[www.channelnewsasia.com/video](http://www.channelnewsasia.com/video)

3 April 2009, Friday

## 体校明年开办六年课程

潘星华 蓝智峰  
报道

新加坡体育学校将开办六年课程,明年100名中一新生,是首批进入六年课程的学生。六年制将开办A水准课程还是IB课程,详情将在未来两三个月内敲定。

新制度不影响目前校内的418名学生。

社会发展青年及体育部长维文医生,昨天出席体校五周年校庆,并为体校“荣誉堂”(The Champions' Heritage Centre)开幕后,对记者宣布上述消息。

他说:体校创办五年,成就非凡。培养了不少能代表国家参加国际竞赛的选手,为国争光。他们是全国和世界赛的冠军人物,去年参加北京奥运会,体校学生也有优异表现。这显示国家在这群有体育天赋的年轻人身上所作的投资是正确的。

维文说:“正因为如此,我们认为体校原有的四年教育并不足够。我们决定明年起,让体校的课程从四年扩展到六年,让学生有足够时间发展学术和体育并重的教育,悉心栽培国家的体育栋梁,并为学生毕业后,提供更多升学的选择。”

他说,体校是新加坡发展卓越体育的重要支柱,将为日后加冷体育中心创建国家体育学院奠定基础。

体校校长区美伦向媒体说,科学研究显示,人的生理成熟年龄在15岁至18岁,有体育天赋年轻人的运动潜能,也在这个时候绽放得淋漓尽致,这段时间正是学生在中学到高中期间。

**学生日后升学将有更多选择**

体校负有为国家栽培体育人才的使命,因此明年起把课程从四年扩展到六年,将让学校有更充裕的时间培育学生,也让学生

有充分的时间接受体育与学术并重的教育。

体校于2004年以两列双重直通车,做好让生跳过O水准会考和A水准会考,直上大学的准备。这两列双重直通车,一是安排新西兰奥克兰理工大学到新加坡体校来开“体育管理”和“体育科学”的两年高中文凭课程,让体校中四毕业生,免考O水准会考入读,修读完毕,可以直升承认这项文凭的欧美顶尖大学;二是和共和理工学院及南洋理工大学合作,体校毕业生免考O水准会考进入共和理工学院,三年毕业,成绩理想,可再直升南大。

共和理工学院于2008年开办“体育、健康与休闲”学系,提供三年制文凭课程,南洋理工大学则于今年2月宣布推出“体育科学与管理学士学位课程”。这些新课程都为体校毕业生入读做准备。

区美伦说,体校明年推出六年制新课程后,上述两列双重直

通车照样开动,中四学生都可以自由作出选择。发展新课程,能让学生在日后升学有更多选择。

2006年38名体校第一批毕业生中,有23人(60%)参加新西兰奥克兰理工大学高中课程,其中20人已于去年底毕业。他们的优秀成绩让他们都能进入七所重视体育教育的世界顶尖大学。

第一批毕业生中另有7人(18%)进入共和理工学院,他们将于明年毕业,成绩理想的,可再升读南大。另外8人,则于2006年考O水准会考,循传统的路线,进入初级学院升学。

为体校新学制制定细则,区美伦已经到外国取过经。她说:“我们到德国、荷兰、芬兰和英国的体育学校参观考察,他们灵活为个别学生专门设计课程,让学生以两年或三年完成高中课程,给我们很大启示。为了灵活配合体校学生参加国际重要赛事,我们的课程可以以六年或七年完成,是极富体校特色的课程。”

## 创校五周年放眼世界 20年后要成为全球顶尖体校之一

新加坡体育学校昨晚隆重庆祝创校五周年,并放眼20年后成为全球顶尖的体校之一。

社会发展、青年及体育部长维文医生是庆祝活动的特别嘉宾。他在体校礼堂台上,连同体育与学术各部门主任和学生代表,将写着各自对体校未来20年期许的信件放在一个时间囊,时间囊埋入地底后,将在2029年“重见天日”。

体校校长区美伦向在场的贵宾、师生和家长们致词时指出,她希望该校在2029年能够在世界有名的体校之中占有一席之地。另外,区美伦也宣布体校目前已展开筹备校友会的工作。在列出体校学生去年的成就时,区美伦特别提到该校有七名学生担任本报学生报《温哥》的学生记者。

昨晚维文也为体校的“荣誉堂”主持开幕。参观荣誉堂的贵宾包括我国前体坛名将洪秉祥(游泳)、杨嘉恩(保龄球),以及乒乓球总会会长李美花和帆船总会会长刘瀚彬。

走进荣誉堂,就看到我国田



体校年度最佳男女学生奖得主陶李(左二)与陶李(右二)从维文手中接获奖状,右一为体校校长区美伦。(陈福洲摄)

径选手江利龙、帆船女将蒋瑞琪达和游泳女将陶李的巨型照片。荣誉堂内的展品包括体校学生在世锦赛等赛事中获得的奖牌,以及列出参与奥运和亚运的体校学生名人堂。

18岁的江利龙是我国在北京奥运的短跑代表,他昨晚从维文

手中接获体校杰出校友奖。江利龙今年2月毕业于体育管理与运动科学课程,即将在后个星期入伍,他近来都在体校参与庆祝活动的筹备工作。对于退伍后的打算,江利龙表示希望能够出国深造。

昨晚还颁发体校年度最佳男女学生奖,分别由我国乒乓球男将陶李和游泳女将陶李获得。陶李还在台上和江利龙合唱爱国歌曲《一起走到》,作为庆祝会的压轴,所有嘉宾也受邀上台见证维文和区美伦切巨型蛋糕,然后全场齐唱体校校歌,为五周年庆祝画上完美的句点。

### SPORTS IN SCHOOLS

## Six-year academic programme for Sports School

By JONATHAN WONG

THE Singapore Sports School will extend its current four-year academic programme to a six-year one from next year.

At the school's fifth anniversary celebrations yesterday, Minister for Community Development, Youth and Sports Vivian Balakrishnan, the guest of honour, announced an extension to its present curriculum.

He said: "We've decided that four years are not enough. We now realise that the students need a longer platform. "This will allow the athletes to peak at

an appropriate and optimal time and not rush to do it in four years. Also, this will provide them with more academic choices and that is key to what we are trying to offer here."

The school's current programmes prepare students for the GCE O levels in either four or five years, with the option of post-secondary education through a diploma course at either Republic Polytechnic or the Auckland University of Technology.

Details of the expanded curriculum remained unclear, though they will be released by the end of the year.

It is likely that the A-level syllabus will be involved.

The new six-year programme will provide "choice and flexibility" for students through "customised and individualised teaching programmes", said the school's principal, Deborah Tan.

Netball Singapore president Tan Wee Khim agreed, saying he felt that some young athletes struggled to cope with the demands of both studies and sports training at other schools after leaving the SSP.

Principal Tan added: "Physically, the students need time to mature and develop to reach their peak."

"Our main objective then is to bring as many of them with us to the senior level and realise their potential."

With the new programme applying only to next year's entry batch, there is no pressing need for infrastructure expansion at the school.

Dr Balakrishnan presented awards to the school's prominent athletes, including national swimmer Tao Li and national table tennis player Pang Xuejie.

He also opened The Champions' Heritage Centre, which showcases the trophies won by its students and documents the school's history.



Dr Vivian Balakrishnan with recipients of the Singapore Sports School's Outstanding Student awards — national table tennis player Pang Xuejie (centre) and national swimmer Tao Li. PHOTO: LIANHE ZHAOBAO