

**Speech by Principal Tan Teck Hock at Singapore Sports School's Send-Off Ceremony for Student-Athletes and Alumni competing at the Incheon 2014 Asian Games, at the Singapore Sports School Auditorium on Thursday, 4 September 2014, at 9 am.**

Good morning Chef de Mission Jessie Phua, our guest-of-honour, our student-athletes and alumni competing at the upcoming Asian Games, parents and family of our young champions, School.

It has been a very busy year for our School.

We organised two events at the beginning of the year to celebrate our School's 10th anniversary – the Awards Night and the International Conference.

We have also competed at the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow, Scotland, and the Youth Olympic Games in Nanjing, China. This morning, we send off a third group of champions to yet another multi-discipline event – the Incheon 2014 Asian Games in South Korea.

The Singapore National Olympic Council has given the nod to 40 champions from our School – 36 alumni, 3 student-athletes and 1 staff. This is by far the largest Singapore Sports School contingent going out to any major Games. We had a total of 30 student-athletes and alumni competing in two editions of the Asian Games in 2006 in Doha and in 2010 in Guangzhou. And heading for this one edition in Incheon, we have 39.

Together with our multiple-times bemedalled shooting Coach Nigel Lim Swee Hon, the Singapore Sports School contingent makes up 14.44 per cent of the 227-strong Team Singapore.

From the first five cohorts, there are 32 alumni. From the second five cohorts, there are four alumni and three current student-athletes, one of who is 14-year-old shooter, Martina Lindsay P Veloso, the youngest amongst all.

The oldest is Jazreel Tan Shi Hua, who joined our School as a mid-streamer in 2005.

We have eight alumni bowlers going to Incheon. This is testament to the close relationship that our School has with Singapore Bowling Federation in developing bowlers to represent Singapore. Chef de Mission, Mrs Jessie Phua, is the president of Singapore Bowling Federation and we acknowledge her leadership in building this relationship with our School.

Among the bowlers, we have not one but two Sportsboy of the Year – Keith Saw Hui-Xun, who won the SNOC title in 2013 and Muhammad Jaris Goh Ali Akbar Goh, who was presented it in 2014. We also have two World Women's Championships silver medallists – Jazreel in 2007 and Daphne Tan Shi Jing in 2011.

We have seven alumni in the athletics team and seven alumni in the football team.

Besides Olympians Calvin Kang Li Loong and Dipna Lim Prasad, the other five in the athletics team can also be described as seasoned campaigners. I say so because everyone has competed in at least one Southeast Asian Games or 1 Commonwealth Games.

The footballers come from three batches – 2004, 2005 and 2009. Among them is Muhammad Safuwan Baharudin from our 2004 pioneer batch. Safuwan is the Vice-Captain of the LionXII and had won The Straits Times Athlete of the Year award in 2013.

I look forward to seeing our footballers and more of our alumni play at the new National Stadium some time, and play so brilliantly that the spectators will spontaneously re-create the Kallang Roar and the Kallang Wave.

We have five alumni swimmers going to Incheon. We wish Tao Li the best of luck in the chase for her third gold medal at the Asian Games, having won the Women's 50m Butterfly in her two previous outings to Doha and Guangzhou.

We have two more young women in aquatic events – alumna Loke En Yuan, a gold medallist in Women's Water Polo at the Jakarta-Palembang 2013 Sea Games, and student-athlete diver Fong Kay Yian, a bronze medallist in the Women's Synchronised 3m Springboard event at the same Sea Games.

We have two fencers going to South Korea – one of who is student-athlete Nicole Mae Wong Hui Shan; two shooters – alumna Cheng Jian Huan, a silver medallist at the Commonwealth Games in Delhi in 2010, and student-athlete Martina Veloso, who just returned home from the YOG with a silver medal and in June, the ISSF World Cup in Munich with a gold medal.

There're also two alumni golfers; two alumni sailors, including Cecilia Low Rui Qi who is one-half of a pair of World Champions in the Women's 420 Class in sailing; and two alumni table tennis players – Clarence Chew Zhe Yu and Isabelle Li Siyun, who returned with Team golds from the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow.

There are several going to the Asiad who were or are mid-streamers. Bowler Jazreel was one. Fencer Cheryl Lim, sailor Andrew Paul Chan Li Jian were others. And Diver Kay Yian, too, joined us when she was in Secondary 4.

Singapore Sports School will always welcome sport talents whether at Secondary 1 entry point or midway through their secondary education, when they are recommended and supported by their respective sport's National Sports Association.

At whichever level our student-athletes join us, they can be sure that we will support them to become the champions that they can be – so long as they adopt the right attitude, be disciplined and work hard towards achieving their goals.

To our 40 champions going forth to South Korea, stay steady, and achieve what you've been training for. You have my best wishes.