



31 January 2012

MEDIA RELEASE

EMBARGOED TILL AFTER DELIVERY

STTA TO AWARD TOP PLAYERS FOR 2011

Singapore Table Tennis Association (STTA) will be hosting its Annual Awards Ceremony to honour our table tennis paddlers for doing Singapore proud in the year 2011. The details of the event are as follows:

Date: Tuesday, 31 January 2012
Time: 7pm
Venue: Pin Si Restaurant @Yishun Safra,
60 Yishun Avenue 4 #02-V1, Yishun Safra Country Club, Singapore 769027
Guest of Honour: Er.Dr. Lee Bee Wah, Member of Parliament for Nee Soon GRC & President, STTA

The 11 prestigious awards are as follows: Special Award of the Year (4 awards), Most Improved Player of the Year, Best Youth Player of the Year (2 awards), Best Coach of the Year (2 awards), Best Sportsman of the year and Best Sportswoman of year.

The factors that were considered by the Selection Committee were the recipient's versatility, impact on the sport association, personal contribution, overall merit and other qualities.

Special Award of the Year 2011 (Athletes): YANG ZI, ZHAN JIAN & WANG YUEGU

The Special Award of the year acknowledges the athlete's win against the tough Chinese opponents and his/her exceptional performances. And this is the first time that STTA is presenting the special award to three outstanding athletes.

Yang Zi and Zhan Jian defeated the defending champions Jiang Tianyi/Tang Peng (CHN) with a score of 4-3 in the quarter finals at the ITTF Pro-Tour Grand Finals. The win was not easy and it proves that Yang Zi and Zhan Jian are one of the best doubles partnership in the circuit.

Wang Yuegu's excellent play at the ITTF Pro-Tour Grand Finals also deserves recognition. In a gripping seven games duel she beat China's Guo Yan, the top seed and kept the crowd totally engrossed, as she caused a sensation in the Women's Singles quarter-finals at the ITTF Pro Tour Grand Finals.

Special Award of the Year 2011 (Coach): KE YUANXIN

This is the first time that the special award is presented to a coach and he is none other than our head coach of the STTA Youth Development Squad: Ke Yuanxin.

Coach Ke is committed and has dedicated himself to supporting the growth of the young talents in our youth programme. He is known be a great administrator and he runs our youth programmes with excellence.

Coach Ke's selfless sacrifice and commitment to the STTA are remarkable and he embodies the characteristics of an ideal role model, teacher, and mentor. We are lucky to have someone like Coach Ke that wholeheartedly supports the STTA's mission and vision.

Chia Khim Lee Most Improved Player of the Year 2011: ISABELLE LI

Isabelle Li has made tremendous improvement since she scored the silver medal in the girls' event at the Youth Olympics Games in 2010. She has been training and competing intensively after making the step up from the junior level to the senior level. At the recent SEA Games, Isabelle won the silver medal in an individual event in her Games debut.

Isabelle is currently training full time with the aim of training professional and she has set her sights on the gold medal in the next SEA games.

Chia Khim Lee Food Industries Pte Ltd is the proud sponsor of the Most Improved Player of the Year 2011 award.

Best Youth Players of the Year 2011: PANG XUEJIE & MA LIANG

Pang Xuejie and Ma Liang helped to create history by scoring the gold medal in the men's double event at the recent SEA games. This is the first time that Singapore scored the gold and silver medals in the men's doubles event at the SEA Games.

Pang Xuejie and Ma Liang put in a calm and measured performance and scored a victory against their senior teammates: Gao Ning and Yang Zi.

Both youth players' relentless pursuit for excellence in their sport makes them deserving for the awards.

Best Coaches of the Year 2011: ZHOU SHUSEN & YANG CHUAN NING

Coach Zhou Shusen has displayed outstanding achievement and great leadership since coaching the women's team. He is committed to the overall development of our players and he is a fatherly figure who commands a lot of respect from the players. His motto is unity is strength and his message to all the players is that everyone must go out and get a point!

It is through his guidance that the Feng Tianwei won the Korea and Japan Pro Tour Open, Wang Yuegu scoring the crown in the singles and double event at the Brazil Pro Tour Open, and the women's team taking a clean sweep in the singles, doubles, mixed double events at the recent SEA games.

Coach Yang Chuan Ning, a Jiangsu native started leading the men's team in August 2010. Under his guidance, the men's team has captured the **men's team** and men's singles gold for the **first time** at the Delhi 2010: XIX **Commonwealth Games**. Furthermore, our men players also created history by securing the one-two finish in the men's singles and men's doubles event at the recent SEA Games. We believe that Coach Yang will continue to bring greater sporting opportunities to the men's team.

100 PLUS Best Sportsman of the Year 2011: GAO NING

At the recent ITTF Pro-Tour Grand Finals, Gao Ning was the only non-Chinese player to finish in the Top 4 for the singles event. Gao Ning displayed exceptional play when he came back from a 1-3 deficit against Ma Lin (2008 gold medalist) and his win created the biggest upset of the tournament. Gao Ning also defeated Ryu Seung Min, Olympics singles gold medalist 2004 to reach the semis.

"Gao Ning is one of the most consistent players in our team and this is a player that performs his best at every game. Gao Ning is the well-deserved winner of this prestigious award, says Er. Dr. Lee Bee Wah, Member of Parliament for Nee Soon GRC & President of STTA

We are proud to announce that 100 PLUS is the proud sponsor of the 100 PLUS Best Sportsman of the Year 2011 award.

100 PLUS Best Sportswoman of the Year 2011: FENG TIANWEI

Feng Tianwei scored impressive wins at the Japan and Korea Pro Tours Opens.

At the China vs World Championships, Feng Tianwei brought the World Team to victory by scoring the two critical wins against Feng Yalan and Guo Yan. This is the first time in the three year history of the event that the Chinese did not win the Championships.

Feng Tianwei is a ferocious competitor and is known to display her ability to make the most improbable of breakthroughs.

Er. Dr. Lee Bee Wah, Member of Parliament for Nee Soon GRC & President of STTA added, "Tianwei is known for her mental strength and she is also the most hardworking player on the team. The selection committee unanimously agrees that Tianwei had an outstanding year in 2011 and there is no better player than her to deserve this award. We all have high hopes for her in the upcoming London Olympics Games and we have great faith in her that she will not fail us."

We are proud to announce that 100 PLUS is the proud sponsor of the 100 PLUS Best Sportswoman of the Year 2011 award.

Prize Money

All the recipients are awarded with a cash reward of \$1000 and trophy.

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