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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **THE STTA APPOINTS NEW DEPUTY HEAD COACH FOR NATIONAL WOMEN'S TABLE TENNIS TEAM**



Liu Jiayi, 64 will be appointed as the Deputy Head Coach for the national women's table tennis team, starting from March 2014.

The Fujian native started his coaching career as the Head Coach of the men's team, Fujian Sports School. Under his leadership, the Fujian men's team won the China National Championships in year 1981 and 1983. From 1980 to 1994, Coach Liu coached the Fujian Sports School women's team.

Coach Liu has vast experience in coaching international players. He had spent some time in the Middle East coaching players in the UAE Table Tennis Club. In 1994, Coach Liu was appointed to coach the English National Table Tennis Youth Team. In 1998, Coach Liu had a new appointment as the head coach of the English National Table Tennis men's team. During this term, Coach Liu was instrumental in guiding Matthew Syed to winning the men's singles and men's doubles gold in the 2000 Commonwealth Table Tennis Championships. At the 2010 Commonwealth Games, the English table tennis team won the men's team silver and bronze in the men's doubles and mixed doubles. The English men's team also won the bronze in the men's team and men's doubles events at the Commonwealth Table Tennis Championships 2013.

"We are thrilled to have a veteran coach like Coach Liu to join the STTA family as he will be bringing a wealth of coaching experience and a variety of experience to our women team. We believe in our Head Coach Jing Junhong and Coach Liu and their abilities in bringing out the best in our women paddlers and helping them to achieve greater sporting successes," said Er Lee Bee Wah, Member of Parliament for Nee Soon GRC & President, STTA.