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# KEPPEL PARTNERS SINGAPORE TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION (STTA) TO SPUR TABLE TENNIS CHAMPIONS

The Singapore Table Tennis Association (STTA) and Keppel Corporation today announced Keppel's sponsorship of the Keppel-STTA Awards Night 2013. The event is organised annually by STTA to honour Singapore's table tennis paddlers for their achievements.

Keppel will sponsor all cash awards to be presented at the Keppel-STTA Awards Night 2013, where awards are valued at \$1,500 to \$10,000. Keppel's partnership with STTA builds on the company's three-year sponsorship agreement with STTA to advance the efforts of STTA to nurture table tennis talents in Singapore. Under the agreement signed in 2011 and valued at \$300,000 over three years, Keppel has been providing funding towards STTA's zone training centre at Clementi.

"Our paddlers' winning mindsets and tenacious pursuit of success resonate strongly with Keppel's core values of passion and excellence. Keppel is happy to support STTA in recognising the dedication and sporting spirit of our athletes. This goes towards growing and developing sporting champions in Singapore," said Mr Choo Chiau Beng, CEO of Keppel Corporation.

"The Keppel-STTA awards night is to honour our top sporting talents for their notable achievements in the past year, congratulate them on a job well done and spur them on to do even better in their future sporting pursuits. 2012 has indeed been a fruitful year for Team Singapore paddlers. This year, we are happy to find a like-minded partner in Keppel Corporation," said Er Dr Lee Bee Wah, Member of Parliament for Nee Soon GRC and President of STTA.

# The Keppel-STTA Awards comprise:

- Player of the Year 2012
- Most Improved Player of the Year 2012
- Team of the Year 2012
- Coach of the Year 2012 (2 recipients)
- Special Award of the Year 2012 (5 recipients)
- Young Player of the Year 2012

# About STTA

Singapore Table Tennis Association (STTA) is a National Sports Association affiliated to the Singapore National Olympic Council (SNOC) and Singapore Sports Council (SSC). Our mission is to develop world class table tennis players by identifying, nurturing and motivating aspiring table-tennis talents to become the best that they could be. STTA is also committed to promoting table tennis vigorously by building a significant number of table tennis players to help make a vibrant sporting Singapore. Our visition is to make table tennis the most popular game in Singapore.

### Visit <u>www.stta.org.sg</u>.

# **About Keppel Corporation**

With a global footprint in over 30 countries, Keppel Corporation leverages its international network, resources and talents to grow its key businesses. It aims to be the Provider of Choice for Solutions to the Offshore & Marine Industries, Sustainable Environment and Urban Living, guided by its key business thrusts of Sustaining Growth, Empowering Lives and Nurturing Communities.

The Keppel Group of Companies includes Keppel Offshore & Marine, Keppel Energy, Keppel Integrated Engineering, Keppel Telecommunications & Transportation (Keppel T&T) and Keppel Land, among others. Visit <u>www.kepcorp.com</u>.

# Appendix A – Keppel-STTA Awards and Award Recipients

### Keppel –STTA Player of the Year 2012

**Feng Tianwei** has done Singapore proud by winning the Bronze Medal in the Table Tennis Women's Singles. Tianwei becomes only the second Singaporean after weightlifter Tan Howe Liang who took silver at the 1960 Rome Games to win an individual medal after 52 years.

Tianwei had a tough year leading to the London 2012 Olympic Games, but she remains steadfast in her mission. She did not fail us and brought home Singapore's first table tennis individual medal.

Feng Tianwei truly deserved this award and she has previously won the award twice.

#### Keppel –STTA Most Improved Player of the Year Award 2012

**Clarence Chew** has made tremendous improvement in the year 2012. His world ranking has improved from 511 in January 2012 to 365 in Dec 2012

In 2012, Clarence scored victories at the New Zealand Junior & Cadet Open by winning the Junior Boys' Singles event. In addition, he won the crown in the Boys' Singles, Boys' Doubles and Boys' Team events at the Bahrain Junior & Cadet Open.

Clarence is currently training full time with the aim of training professional and he has set his sights to go to the SEA games, Myanmar in 2013.

#### Keppel –STTA Team of the Year 2012

Olympic medallists **Feng Tianwei, Li Jiawei, Wang Yuegu** and **Sun Beibei** deserve to be honoured for their historic medal win at the London 2012 Olympic Games.

The win was not easy as the women's team had to rouse themselves after a painful defeat to Japan in the semi-finals. Their mental strength and fortitude represent qualities that young sportsmen and sportswomen can all learn from and we commend the women's team for displaying great heart, grit and determination at the Games. The women's team has blazed through the Olympic trail and will hopefully inspire many more young people to dream bigger.

# Keppel –STTA Coach of the Year Award 2012

**Coach Zhou Shusen** led the Singapore women's team to winning 2 bronze medals in the London Olympic Games. He has made the most substantive contribution to Singapore sport in the year 2012.

During his term with STTA, the Singapore women's team achieved exceptional results. The Singapore women's team beat the Chinese and scored the crown at the World Team Table Tennis Championships 2010. Feng Tianwei became the first Singaporean to achieve the World Number 2 ranking and is also the first Singaporean to win a singles title at the ITTF Pro-Tour Grand Finals in 2010. At the 2011 China vs World Team 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. We commend Coach Zhou for his outstanding service.

**Coach Jing Junhong** contributed greatly to the success of the women's team. She is a leader who always shares ideas, presents opportunities and gives challenges to the players. She is a great mentor, generates enthusiasm and is known for her ability to motivate the team.

She has been in charge of the development of the women's team since 2009 and has contributed significantly to the women's team successes at the 2010 World Team Table Tennis Championships, Asian Games, SEA Games and the recent achievement at the London Olympic Games 2012.

# Keppel – STTA Special Award of the Year 2012

The Special Award of the year acknowledges the athletes' win against the tough Chinese opponents and their exceptional performances.

STTA presents the special awards to five outstanding athletes:

# Yu Mengyu

The 22-year-old Yu Mengyu shocked World Number 2 Liu Shiwen in the third singles at the Asian Championships team final. Mengyu had the odds stacked against her after conceding the first two games 7-11, 6-11. But she fought back to claim the next three games 11-8, 11-5, and 11-8. It was an exciting match and Singapore gave China a good fight.

# Li Jiawei

At the Kuwait Open, Li Jiawei won the round of 16 match against Li Xiaodan. It was the manner and quality of the victory by Li Jiawei that deserve our special recognition for this win. Jiawei's good fortune for the year continued, as the Singapore paddler teamed up with compatriot Sun Beibei to defeat China's Feng Yalan and Yao Yan in the semi-finals for the women's doubles at Qatar Open.

# Sun Beibei

Sun Beibei together with Li Jiawei secured the victory with a solid 4:0 win against China's Feng Yalan and Yao Yan at the Qatar Open 2012 to advance to the women's doubles final. Against Feng Yalan and Yao Yan, the Singaporean pair showed great control in the match and proved to be a formidable doubles partnership in the circuit.

# Gao Ning and Yang Zi

At the 20th Asian Table Tennis Championships, Gao Ning and Yang Zi created history by scoring the gold medal in the men's doubles event. This is Singapore's first title at the biennial tournament since 1954, when Loh Heng Chew and Poon Weng Hoe won the men's doubles on home soil.

# Keppel – STTA Young Player of the Year Award 2012

**Lin Ye** has shown the world that she has the calibre to excel and succeed retired senior players like Li Jiawei and Wang Yuegu. At 2012 German Open, she beat Korea's penholder Lee Eun Hee, who has beaten many of our senior players like Feng Tianwei and Yu Mengyu. At the 2012 Polish Open, she continued her fine form by overcoming Japan's silver medalist Hirano Sayaka with a victory of 4-1. Her triumph in these tournaments contributed towards her jump in the world rankings from 249th in January 2012 to 104th in December 2012.