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MEDIA RELEASE

Table Tennis: Singapore Table Tennis Association (STTA) bringing in new talents into the national squads.

The STTA is committed to nurture a new generation of accomplished athletes for the national team. We are promoting our current Intermediate Squad members: Izaak Quek (郭勇) 15 years old, Ser Lin Qian (舒麟茜) 15 years old, Zhou Jingyi (周靖祎) 16 years old and Lucas Tan (陈俊) 22 years old, to the National Team with effect from January 2022.

Izaak Quek was viewed as a talented athlete at an early age. At 12 years old, Izaak Quek debut at the 2018 Southeast Asian (SEA) Junior & Cadet Table Tennis Championships and he finished the tournament with 1 gold and 2 bronze medals. Quek also won the Hopes singles event at the 2018 Regional (SEA) Hopes Week and 2018 International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF) Asia Hopes Week early in his table tennis career.

After his wins at the Regional and Asia Hopes tournaments, he was invited to participate in the 2018 ITTF World Hopes Week and Challenge. He ended his outing at the 2018 ITTF World Hopes Week and Challenge as the runner-up.

In April 2021, Quek became the first Singaporean to become World No.1 in the Under-15 boys' ITTF world ranking list. In the same year, he won 2 singles titles at the World Table Tennis (WTT) Youth Contender Szombathely and WTT Youth Contender Lignano tournaments. He ended the year with 2 bronze medals at the ITTF World Youth Championships 2021.

Quek said, “It is my dream to be a member of the national team since young. I am honored to serve Singapore in this new capacity. STTA’s confidence in my abilities means a great deal to me. I look forward to the new challenges and opportunities and I promise to work hard to bring more sporting glory for Singapore.”

Ser Lin Qian also qualified for the ITTF World Youth Championships 2021 and she finished with a bronze medal in the singles event. Not only that, Ser was the Champion of the U15 Singles' event in the 2021 WTT Star Contendor, Lignano.

Ser is a recipient of the 2021 With The Future In Mind (WFIM) scholarship and only 30 paddlers are selected exclusively worldwide. WFIM is a joint programme by the Olympic Solidarity and ITTF which seeks to support promising youth players. The

programme provides scholars additional training and competition opportunities to help them in their quest to qualify for the Olympic Games or Youth Olympic Games. Ser is the only Southeast Asian player out of 30 scholarship recipients.

Ser said, “I am very thankful that I am being promoted into the National Team. I would like to thank STTA for recognizing my hard work and believing that I am ready to take on more challenges. I appreciate the opportunity and I look forward to contributing to the women’s team.”

At 12 years old, Zhou Jingyi made history for Singapore by being the first Singaporean to win the 2017 ITTF World Hopes Week and Challenge in Luxembourg. She was also the youngest Singaporean to reach Top 5 in the Under-15 girls' ITTF world ranking list in June 2018.

Zhou is a force to be reckoned with and has dominated the SEA Junior & Cadet Table Tennis Championships from 2017 to 2019. In all, she had scored a total of 5 golds and 3 bronzes medals from the three editions of the SEA Junior & Cadet Table Tennis Championships.

Zhou is a shake hand grip right-handed player and will make a great addition to the women’s team. At the 2021 Asian Championships, Zhou together with her seniors successfully retained the bronze medal from the 2019 edition of the Asian Championships.

Zhou said, “I am very excited about the promotion and this is a really a great way to start the New Year. This year, my goal is to qualify for the upcoming major games and do Singapore proud. Thank you STTA for your support and it is indeed STTA’s support that has helped me to develop into a better player.”

Not to be outdone, 22 years old Lucas Tan’s achievements also include a Team silver in the 2017 SEA Games, 1 Team gold and 2 bronzes (singles & men’s doubles) in the 2018 SEA Championships and a Team bronze in the 2019 Commonwealth Championships.

Tan said, “I am happy and grateful for this opportunity and it definitely gives me more confidence in my game, a great start to 2022!”

Ellen Lee, JP, PBM said, “Today, we have introduced a fresh generation of young players into our National Team and STTA will continue to give the best support to our young talents, as we build the next generation of Team Singapore. So, we seek the continuous support from our various stakeholders, sponsors, parents, fans and volunteers. Let us all do our part to support the athletes. Together, we can make a greater impact that will eventually see more Singaporeans on the world stage.”

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