

PRESS RELEASE

Media Division, Ministry of Information & The Arts, 36th Storey, PSA Building, 460 Alexandra Road, Singapore 0511. Tel 2799794/5

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**ENGLISH TRANSLATION OF MANDARIN SPEECH BY
PRIME MINISTER GOH CHOK TONG
AT THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION DINNER OF
THE SINGAPORE NATIONAL WUSHU FEDERATION
AT THE NEPTUNE THEATRE RESTAURANT
ON THURSDAY, 03 DECEMBER 1992 AT 8.00 PM**

Tonight we celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Singapore National Wushu Federation. The presence of representatives from so many pugilistic bodies fully reflects their cohesive spirit.

Wushu or Chinese pugilism has a long history. It is a form of martial arts practised by the Chinese to strengthen their bodies and for self-defence. With the migration of the Chinese people, wushu has spread to various parts of the world.

In the early years, there were many pugilistic bodies in Singapore practising different schools of wushu. Following a call by Mr Lee Kuan Yew 25 years ago, the Singapore National Wushu Federation was set up to lead and coordinate the work of the various pugilistic associations and to help them raise pugilistic skills.

Over the last 25 years, apart from promoting and developing wushu in Singapore, your Federation has contributed to nation-building by actively participating in various community projects.

This evening's gathering provides us with a good opportunity to review the past and look to the future.

To further develop wushu in Singapore, attention should be given to four areas.

First, some of the more complex pugilistic forms should be standardised to make them easy to teach and master. This is a long-term effort. Perhaps your Federation can consult with pugilistic bodies in other countries to further study the matter.

Second, a comprehensive and effective system of training for both trainees and instructors should be developed. All of us know that the Olympic medal is the highest honour in sports. For each of the Olympic events, the standard of achievement is universally recognised. Therefore, I would like to suggest to the Federation that apart from holding competitions, systematic training should also be instituted so that trainees will be able to gauge their own progress. There should also be an objective system of appraisal to assess pugilistic skills.

Third, your Federation should step up efforts to nurture young pugilists for the sport. This must be done so as to raise the standard of wushu in Singapore.

Fourth, like other sporting bodies, your Federation should strengthen its contacts and promote exchanges with other wushu bodies in the region to learn from them and improve on our training methods. Only then can we produce a higher standard of wushu.

There is a saying that a person who learns martial art should first cultivate his moral values. Singapore is an Asian society. It is our heritage to attach importance to the cultivation of a good moral character. Therefore, in promoting wushu in Singapore, your Federation should make the young trainees realise that the learning of martial art is not just to build up their bodies. More importantly, it is to strengthen their perseverance, will power and self-discipline. Only then can we engender good citizenship which emphasises physical and mental ability together with a strong moral sense.

I believe that by working together, your Federation will

be able to achieve success in promoting wushu and in raising its standards.

If Singaporeans recognise that good health is a pre-condition for us to remain competitive, then we would have a good future.

Finally, I wish your Federation and all the pugilistic associations in Singapore greater success in their efforts to help keep Singaporeans physically fit and to contribute to Singapore's growth and development.

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SPEECH BY PRIME MINISTER MR GOH CHOK TONG
AT THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION DINNER OF
THE SINGAPORE NATIONAL WUSHU FEDERATION ON 3 DEC 92 AT 8.00 PM

各位亲爱的同胞：

今晚，全国武术总会举行晚宴，
庆祝成立二十五周年。

有这么多武术团体的代表，
聚集在一起庆祝，

充分表现了

武术团体的团结精神。

2. 中华武术，历史悠久，

是华族同胞强身健体、

自卫防敌的一门技术。

它随着华族移民，

流传到世界各地。

3. 早期，新加坡的武术团体派别很多，各自为政。一直到二十五年前，全国武术总会
在李资政的号召下成立，新加坡才有了一个领导各武术团体的组织，负起协调和提高武术水平的工作。

4. 这二十五年来，
武术总会除了推动和发扬
武术运动之外，
还积极参与
各种社会工作，
为国家建设贡献力量。

5. 今晚，我们应该
借这个难得的机会，
检讨过去，展望未来。

6. 我的看法是，
新加坡的中华武术
要取得进一步的发展，
可以从四方面下手。

7. 首先，是把一些
高深复杂的武术，
加以规范化，
使它们容易学、容易传。
这是一个长期的工作，
武术总会可以和外国的
武术团体合作，
共同探讨这个课题。

8. 其次，是编制一套完整、有效的训练制度，使学员和教练都有所依循。大家都知道，奥林匹克运动会的锦标，是体育竞赛的最高荣誉。每一项比赛都很科学化，都有受各国承认的评定标准。因此，我要向武术总会建议，除了举办锦标赛之外，也应该为学习武术的学员，编制一套训练制度。这样一来，学员就能知道本身的学习进度，而学员武术水平的鉴定，也会有个客观的标准。

9. 第三，武术总会应该努力培养更多青、少年选手，成为武坛的生力军。

要提高新加坡的武术水平，就必须把这项工作做好。

10. 第四，和其他体育活动一样，武术总会应该加强区域性的联系和交流，

吸取别人教学上的长处，改进我们的训练方法。

这样，才能培养出更多优秀的人才。

学武的人都知道这么一句话，那就是：“习武先修德”。新加坡是一个东方社会，我们的传统是非常重视个人的品德修养，因此，在推广武术活动的时候，全国武术总会应该让年轻的一代了解，学习武术不只是锻炼体格，更重要的，是加强个人的恒心、意志力和自律精神。这样，我们才能训练出有勇有谋、有仁有义的好公民。

12. 我相信，集合大家的力量，
全国武术总会
一定能在普及武术运动
和提高武术水准两方面，
取得成功。

13. 如果我们能让人民认识到
身体健康是
保持国家竞争力的基本条件，
我们就会有美好的将来。

14. 最后，我祝愿武术总会
和全国各武术团体继续努力，
为全民保健和国家建设，
争取更好的成绩。
谢谢大家。