

SINGAPORE GOVERNMENT PRESS STATEMENT

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(CULTURE) AND PRESIDENT OF THE SINGAPORE AMATEUR CYCLING
ASSOCIATION AND CHAIRMAN, TECHNICAL COMMITTEE FOR THE
5TH ASIAN CYCLING AT THE CLOSING CEREMONY AND DINNER
AT KING'S HOTEL ON SATURDAY, OCTOBER 30, AT 8 P.M.

I have already given my address at the opening of the Fifth Asian Cycling Championships and it is not my intention to sermonize at this function. However, it is essential for me to say my piece on this occasion, especially to discharge my heartfelt gratitude, if not obligation, to the very many institutions and especially individuals who have gone out of the way to make these championships entirely possible, and, more importantly, successful and even rewarding for the involved.

To those of us who are in the sport of cycling in Singapore, the Fifth Asian Cycling Championships have been the best that has ever happened and to make it doubly significant and pleasurable the arrangements and the results have been very much to our satisfaction and to be frank with you well beyond our expectations. This was the first time that we were hosting such an event and were confronted with the lack of proven experience in this field, especially on the technical aspects of racing which were essential knowledge.

To the Government, to the Ministry of Social Affairs, to the National Sports Promotion Board, to other public agencies, to the Police and the Armed Forces, we say thank you very much indeed for all that you have done.

To Inohe عثمان Wok for graciously and kindly taking on such an active interest in cycling, for agreeing to be President of the Asian Cycling Federation and for this meet to be held in Singapore and for his stewardship of the Federation, especially seeing his most able chairmanship of the executive and congress meetings in Singapore these last few days, we, I think I am speaking for all of us here in this regard, are most appreciative. He has always been in his charming, encouraging and enthusiastic self a beacon to sports lovers being, of course, an outstanding captain for the team of requirements and officials for sports in Singapore. This quality he readily showed in his chairmanship also of the organising council, all of whose members took on to this thankless task, expending much time, much thought and much trouble for the challenge they faced and fun they derived out of it. To all of them, we in the Singapore Amateur Cycling Association, besides the Asian Cycling Federation, are much indebted.

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To the Secretary-General of the Organising Council for the 5th Asian Cycling Championships and now also the Asian Cycling Federation, Mr. E.O. Thompson, we owe our thanks for consistent application to his tasks with the tedium and the thoroughness that went with it and to which he responded enthusiastically and efficiently. We wish him all success in the very challenging and rewarding job ahead of Secretary-General of the Asian Cycling Federation where we hope that within the next two years he will take the Federation further in realising its objectives and promoting the sport in Asia. We are happy that he is also one of us in Singapore and we promise to give him every assistance in his job, if and when he finds the need to call on our services.

To Mr. Benny Foster, who agreed to my personal invitation to him at a chance meeting in Europe to help us out with his expertise and wisdom at a time of real need for us at such sacrifice to his own time and interests in Europe, we, and I in particular, are most grateful. He has been a tower of strength, knowledge, encouragement and appreciation to us, especially those of us in the Technical Committee for the championships in which I got in late as Chairman, where in innumerable ways he contributed towards and helped set right essential matters and procedures.

To the staff of the National Sports Promotion Board and to the officials of the Singapore Amateur Cycling Association, we are deeply appreciative of their wonderful work as willing work-horses and as backroom boys. They sought no glory or kudos but were there to do the job which had to be done, irrespective of any other consideration.

To the Press who have given their fullest co-operation and publicity in responsible reporting we are most grateful.

To the sponsors, especially Shell, Malaysia-Singapore Airlines, King's Hotel and Southern Island Tours Organisation and to the others who have in terms of time or thought, in trials and tribulations withstood anxieties and worked for the pot of gold at the end of the rainbow, we are again deeply obliged to.

To my friend and colleague, Mr. Chan Cheo Seng, who in his own way has been most helpful I say thank you very much and last and possibly most to you, the cyclists and the officials, who reflect Asian cycling, for being with us here today and for showing such readily appreciation of our effort, as contained in the sentiments expressed by you at the meeting of the Congress, we say in return we have done our best and hope to be excused for any omissions, inadequacies and the like and hope

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that for those of you who came as acquaintances to Singapore and her people you leave us as our friends forever and will look forward to meeting us many more times.

We have been pleased that the Fifth Asian Cycling Championships in Singapore has gained recognition of the UCI and FIAC that they sent our friend, Mr. Vilas Bunnag, as a technical delegate and that Mr. Bunnag and Mr. Foster have been entirely happy with the arrangements and conditions of racing as conforming to the requirements of such an international meet. Be rest assured that on our part in Singapore, the Singapore Amateur Cycling Association will sustain this renaissance and new zeals for cycling in Singapore, made possible by you all and the Asian Cycling Federation and we look forward to increasingly contributing to the development of this sport in Singapore and Asia, working very closely with our counterparts and brethren in this field in Asia and the Asian Cycling Federation.

OCTOBER 30, 1971.

(Time issued: 1500 hours)
