

# SINGAPORE GOVERNMENT PRESS RELEASE

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SPEECH BY MR CHAN CHEE SETG, PRESIDENT OF THE SINGAPORE  
AMATEUR SWIMMING ASSOCIATION AT A PRESS CONFERENCE ON  
THE FIRST ASEAN AGE GROUP SWIMMING CHAMPIONSHIP HELD AT  
THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL AFFAIRS  
ON WEDNESDAY, 20 JULY 1977 AT 12.45 PM

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This first ASEAN Age Group Swimming Championship is symbolic of the spirit of ASEAN solidarity in the field of socio-cultural activities. ASEAN as an organisation has reached a stage when projects and schemes ought to give concrete meaning to the will of the peoples in our five countries in seeking to develop a sense of identity and common purpose and the recognition of mutual interest in economic, social and cultural fields. In the field of swimming, we always have had ample opportunities of working together and participating in regional swimming championships but the staging of the ASEAN Age Group Swimming Championships is perhaps the first time ASEAN countries come together in the field of swimming, which will undoubtedly help in raising the standard of performance and promoting friendships amongst swimmers in our respective countries.

The Singapore Amateur Swimming Association is privileged and honoured to organise this championship which is held at the Teo Payoh Olympic Pool on the 12th, 13th and 14th of August 1977. The championship involves four age groups as follows:-

- Group I - 15 to 17 years
- Group II - 13 to 14 years
- Group III - 11 to 12 years
- Group IV - 10 years and under.

The response and participation by swimmers from the various ASEAN countries have been most encouraging. A total of 231 swimmers will be taking part in the championship - 46 from Thailand, 28 from Malaysia, 18 from Indonesia, 12 from Philippines and 56 from Singapore.

For us in Singapore, the championship will afford the opportunities for our young swimmers to gain experience in international competitions. Last year, the 7th Asian Age Group Meet was not held. This was quite a disappointment to us for our young swimmers must be given every opportunity for international competitive experience to prepare them for other regional games such as the SEA Games which will be held in Kuala Lumpur this year.

With the launching of the ASEAN Age Group Swimming Championship it is hoped that a Federation to look after the interest of swimming in this region will be formed, and we hope that during the championship period, we can discuss the formation of this Federation which if come about, will give the fillip to the promotion of swimming among the ASEAN countries. The proposed work plan on this has been sent to all ASEAN countries for discussion and views. The constitution has been worked out. It is a simple but effective constitution which will ensure the continuity of our interest in the promotion of swimming among ASEAN countries. With the formation of the ASEAN Swimming Federation, we will certainly achieve the aims of promoting swimming, ensuring that

there is exchange of knowledge and expertise in swimming and strengthening good ill and fostering relationships amongst swimming associations, officials and swimmers of the ASEAN region. Tentatively, three sub-committees will be formed. They are the Research and Library Committee, the Coaches Committee and the Bulletin Committee.

Finally, I wish to thank all the coaches and swimmers, parents and affiliates for the wholehearted co-operation and sacrifices in assisting the Association and particularly in supporting this Age Group Swimming Championship. I would like to extend a hearty welcome and our warmest wishes to all officials and swimmers from the ASEAN countries. I hope they will have a pleasant stay in Singapore.