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SPEECH BY TAN ENG LIANG, CHAIRMAN, SINGAPORE SPORTS COUNCIL AT THE CLOSING CEREMONY OF THE 6TH WORLD NETBALL TOURNAMENT AT KENT RIDGE ON 24 JUNE 83 AT 6.45 PM

I am honoured to be invited to the Closing Ceremony of the 6th World Netball Tournament. It makes me feel good to be among the foremost netballers and officials in the world.

The tournament itself had been a historical event for Singapore. We do not have many opportunities of staging world sports meets. In fact, the last time this honour was bestowed on Singapore was in 1970 when we organised the 17th World Cup Golf Tournament.

I regret I was unable to watch any of the matches played over the last few days due to my absence from the country. However, I have been told that it had been a hotly contested championship. The standard of play was very high, befitting a competition of this level.

In any sports contest, there can be only one winner. My congratulations go to Australia for winning the title and to New Zealand for being runner-up. For those of you who have performed creditably but missed out on the title, I wish you better fortune in future. All is not lost as the next World Netball Tournament will give you an opportunity to make amends.

Organising this tournament had been a formidable task for our local netball officials and their supporting staff.

They had given up much of their leisure to prepare for and conduct the tournament. Without their commitment, this tournament could not have materialised.

I wish to thank all of them - volunteers at large - for ensuring that the tournament ran smoothly. They have tried their best to put up a good show. But if their best had been wanting in any way, I hope you - the experts from overseas - would overlook some of the things that might have been unpleasant or problematic. On the other hand, should you have any suggestions to make that you think could help improve organisational aspects, I am sure the Tournament Committee would welcome them.

To our overseas players, officials and supporters, I thank you for making the trip to Singapore and being part of this prestigious, and above all, friendly tournament. I wish you a pleasant trip home and may we see you in Singapore in the future.