

10 SEP 1983

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SPEECH BY DR TAN ENG LIANG, CHAIRMAN, SINGAPORE SPORTS COUNCIL,  
AT THE SSC/KENTUCKY TABLE TENNIS TRAINING SCHEME CHEQUE  
PRESENTATION CEREMONY ON SATURDAY 10 SEPTEMBER, 1983 AT THE  
NATIONAL STADIUM THEATRETTE AT 11.00 AM

Surveys in many countries indicate that table tennis is one of the more popular sports whether as a general physical recreation, or pastimes, or serious competitive sports. Some reasons for the popularity of this sport are that it can be played anywhere, independent of weather and seasons, lends itself to both team and individual play, relatively inexpensive, easily learnt, may be played by all ages and by either sex, and beneficial to health. As table tennis can be enjoyed by young and old alike, and either as a pastime or a dedicated sport, it answers the requirements for an ideal "lifetime sport for all".

Since its inauguration in 1978, the SSC/Kentucky Table Tennis Training Scheme has given some 1,400 youngsters a chance to undergo systematic training for competitive table tennis. It is heartening to note that although not all of these trainees don national colours, many who have graduated from the Scheme have continued to play the game recreationally and competitively at constituency and club level. The Scheme has certainly helped to promote the message of sport for all and in particular, impart skills for a healthy lifetime sport.

The year 1982, again saw four players, Chua Kian Hwa,

Yeo Ker Gang, Khoo Kiam Hong and Josephine Lim, being selected for the National Youth Squad. To these trainees I send my congratulations and with it a little note. A successful player is only as good as he believes he is capable. To reach the top in any sport, the participant must set realistic goals and then try to achieve them through disciplined training and keeping up with new developments in scientific training methods. Lastly, a good participant will strive to be both an example and teacher to new trainees as by helping others so will he improve.

On behalf of the SSC, I would like to thank Kentucky Fried Chicken Pte Ltd for their continued support for the sixth year running of this training scheme with a donation of \$20,000. I would also like to congratulate the outstanding trainees who have won special awards for their performance.

Finally, my special congratulations to nine coaches who have won special plaques for their outstanding services and a big thank you to all who have contributed to this Scheme.