

15 SEP 1984

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SPEECH BY DR TAN ENG LIANG, CHAIRMAN, SINGAPORE SPORTS COUNCIL, AT THE ASIAN BASKETBALL REFEREES CLINIC OPENING CEREMONY AT THE NATIONAL STADIUM THEATRETTE ON 6 SEP 84 AT 9.30 AM

In 1891, Dr James Naismith sought a new game which would eliminate unnecessary contact and where running with and kicking of the ball would not be major skills. He wanted a game which would satisfy aesthetically, without being overcome physically and which had as major skills ball-handling, speed and athleticism. The result of his thoughts was the game that all of you are associated with, now administered by the Fédération Internationale de Basketball Amateur (FIBA).

Much development has taken place since the early days of basketball and changes have been made with the result that the game no longer completely conforms to the earlier ideals. For instance, no one would now claim that basketball is a non-contact game as there are many very big men playing whose physical presence inevitably leads to contact. Similarly, height can be significant, even a dominant feature in the game today.

However, FIBA's policy towards the rules of the game is to constantly seek to adapt and revise them so that players will continue to exercise the quality of skill over drawn. As the game evolves and the skills of players and coaches improve, so must the ability of the tournament officials to keep pace with this development. It is for

this reason that all of you are here to attend this Asian Basketball Referees Clinic.

I would like to congratulate the Basketball Association of Singapore (BAS) for having been entrusted with the task of hosting this Clinic from 6 - 9 September 1984. It is indeed an honour to have 200 referees from 12 Asian countries participating in this Clinic. I understand that you will be discussing the recent changes in the rules and regulations that were adopted at the Annual General Meeting of the FIBA held in Munich recently.

I would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate the BAS in having organised the First Merlion Cup International Basketball Tournament with so many teams from leading basketball-playing countries in the world. The crowds at the Gay World Stadium over the last few nights are a testimony that our spectators have thoroughly enjoyed the high standards seen in the games. Our national team, too, has learned much from the skills of these top teams.

Finally, I would like to extend a warm welcome to all guest participants and hope that you have a pleasant stay in Singapore. To all of you who are taking the FIBA referees examination, I wish you every success.

It is now my pleasure to declare open this Asian Basketball Referees Clinic.