

# Singapore Ice Skating Association

Registered Address:

No 6 Temasek Boulevard

#09-05 Suntec Tower Four, Singapore 038986

Website: [www.sisa.org.sg](http://www.sisa.org.sg) ROS: 0253/1998/SPO

Tel: 65 8200-0474 Fax: 65 6722-0774



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## **Appendix 2** **covering activities for** **SISA Financial Year April 2012 - March 2013**

### **President's Report**

Singapore's first Olympic size ice skating rink, The Rink at JCube opened with a soft launch in April 2012 and was a historic moment in Singapore's winter sporting history. A facility of the Singapore Sports Council (SSC), The Rink is managed by CapitaMalls Asia Limited (CMA). Although not a full time training facility for ice sports in Singapore, it is nevertheless a major step forward for winter sports in Singapore and has achieved the important aim of introducing figure and short track speed skating to the public.

The opening of The Rink allowed Singapore to maintain full membership in figure skating and obtain full membership in speed skating under the ISU (International Skating Union). Membership in the ISU allows Singapore to send skaters to compete in ISU and ASU (Asian Skating Union) sanctioned events and competitions, all the way up to the Winter Olympics Games, should a Singaporean skater qualify.

Additionally, The Rink provided SISA (Singapore Ice Skating Association), in partnership with SSC and The Rink at JCube management, a platform to launch SKATESTAR, SISA's national learn-to-skate program for both figure skating and short track speed skating. SKATESTAR was developed by SISA and is being implemented by The Rink. This program introduced ice skating to a large number of people of all ages, with more than 1,500 participants enrolling and participating in the SKATESTAR program during the first financial year.

While SISA would certainly benefit should a full time training facility become a reality in Singapore, for a sport like ours where the facility is expensive to build, and expensive to maintain and run, we are appreciative that where just a year prior we had NO ice time at all, we now have the ability to book the full ice for training, events and competitions. Our national and development level athletes now have the ability to train on the same size rink that they will compete in internationally. The hours may not be ideal, but committed athletes in many sports do wake up early to train in the wee hours of the morning, and our sport is no exception. While we wish that ice costs could be cheaper, we do recognize that there is a minimum cost to SSC to maintain this facility (as well as costs to fit out and build) and that these cost must be passed on to SISA and then to the end user, the skaters and their parents.

I will leave it to the respective directors of figure skating and short track speed skating to elaborate on what the year saw for their respective disciplines. I will however, make brief mention of the Korean Dream Program, which cut across both disciplines. We were once again invited to participate in this fantastic program, organized and fully funded by Korea, to promote winter sports to countries that do not have a winter season. Korea has committed to this program till the 2018 Winter Olympic Games in Pyeongchang and so more of athletes will have a chance to participate in this enriching experience.

As both branches of the sport grow, it is heartening to see more athletes participating each year in our national championships. With the success of the SKATESTAR program, we will be asking SSC if they can support an interschool ice skating competition in the future. As an association that is highly dependent on volunteers, it is also heartening to see more parents willing to come forward to help the sport develop and grow. Certainly there are many challenges ahead, but if we all work together for the good of the sport in general, we can make this sport better for the generations to come.

**Sonja Chong**  
**President**  
**Singapore Ice Skating Association**

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## **Figure Skating Committee Report**

With the publicized message during the soft opening of The Rink @ JCube on 2nd April 2012 that the rink is intended for the public and community usage, our euphoria over the new rink was tempered. However, the figure skating committee had still to move ahead within the given framework of ice sessions allocations amongst the NSAs and was really glad that Richard Rowlands, the Rink Manager of The Rink @ JCube was very supportive of our cause, albeit within his management scope. Understanding the contractual obligations of existing coaches with their employer, Kallang Ice World, actually helped us plan our activities around this other constraint. Consequently, we viewed Kallang Ice World's program as supportive for our younger and recreational skaters who may not be able to conform with the ice sessions framework at The Rink @ JCube.

### **ICE SESSIONS:**

Subsequent to the soft opening of The Rink @ JCube where Max Ko and Cecilian Hartmann did us proud with their performances to the medias, the Figure Skating Committee kicked start our activities with on-ice workshops with Nicolas Osseland, Zhang Mo and Kevin Cottam in early April and with Craig Heath in late April, all of which were fully subscribed. In order to gauge the responses to the hours of our allocated ice sessions and the hefty costs, the Committee rolled out weekly self-practice sessions and invited feedback from skaters and parents. The committee also worked from ground zero establishing on-line booking/payment procedures and implemented policies to ensure a safe environment for all our skaters.

Working within the constraints of the lack of coaches without existing contractual obligations but yet having to support SSC's NCAP/NROC programs, we eventually negotiated a deal with Zhang Mo, a NROC level 3 coach, who was relocating back to Singapore then. Thenceforth from June 2012, we launched group lessons for different levels of skaters, including adults and monitored every sessions to ensure our financials are not overstretched. During the school holidays and some public holidays, the committee initiated 20-minutes semi-private lessons on daily week-long sessions. On 2nd October 2012, we rewarded our skating community with a \$20 (to \$25 depending on membership) one-hour open freestyle session which was filled within the few hours that booking was opened.

However, our volunteers were overwhelmed by the mammoth tasks of planning, coordinating, announcements, physical monitoring of the ice sessions and doing the book-keeping on just running of the ice sessions besides the other related figure skating responsibilities. Eventually, when other NROC coaches were able to join our ice sessions, the committee decided to concentrate only on taking charge of the ice sessions.

There were, of course, rainy days where signup were poor and we had to cancel sessions but where the committee can establish a breakeven point financially, the sessions still roll on.

### **EVENTS:**

During the year, we had the honor of Ms. Rita Zonnekyn, who sits on the Technical Committee Board in ISU, to give our skaters, coaches and parents an in-depth understanding of judging criteria and updates for the new season.

A week-long NCAP Technical level 1 and level 2 was conducted in July 2012 by Michael Pasfield for our coaches (and would-be coaches) and we saw many participants successfully completing the course and passing the tests after the many chilly mornings on ice and classroom training.

Three figure skating tests were conducted throughout the year and many skaters from all levels participated despite that the tests were all conducted at the gruesome hours of 9.45pm to midnight. Kudos to all our tough athletes!

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## COMPETITIONS:

Ceciliane Hartmann was nominated to represent Singapore at the ISU Junior Grand Prix at Courchevel, France and Zagreb, Croatia. Brittany Lau was nominated to represent Singapore at the ISU Junior Grand Prix at Lake Placid, USA and Leong Kai Jing represented Singapore at the US Senior International Figure Skating Competition at Salt Lake City, USA. With the newly implemented ISU rules of minimum technical scores as qualification for World Junior Championship and Four Continents Championships, our skaters did not qualify for these two prestigious events eventually despite making more attempts to obtain the qualifier at other international ISU competitions than those nominated competitions.

Singapore was also well represented at the ASU-organized events like the Asian Figure Skating Trophy (which is also an ISU-sanctioned event) and the Asia Figure Skating Challenge.

The year ended with a big bang - our most successful Singapore National Figure Skating Championship and Basic Skills Competitions held at the new rink - The Rink @ JCube. This year saw the biggest turnout ever in the figure skating history in Singapore: 85 participants from 11 countries (including our Singapore skaters). Skaters in Singapore had the opportunity to see up-close some of the amazing Senior and Junior level skaters on the ice.

## CONCLUSION:

In closing, the Figure Skating Committee would like to thank everyone who has been so patient and understanding as we do our best as volunteers to create a win-win situation within the constraints we are facing. Our heartfelt appreciation goes also to all volunteers who have given us their support with time, finances and encouragements while we tread this rocky road and for the Executive Committee of SISA who has to bear with our demands many times. Last but not least, without Elly, our hardy administrator and the rink operators at The Rink @ JCube and Kallang Ice World, we could not have been where we are today. A big Thank You.

**Carol Tan & Liza Wang**  
**Directors of Figure Skating**  
**2012/2013 Figure Skating Sub-committees**

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## **Short Track Speed Skating Committee Report**

### **Summary**

The year 2012-13 was a productive and busy year for Short Track Speed Skating, from competitions, seminar workshop to regional camp. The enablers for the activities were first the opening of Singapore first Olympics size ice rink, JCube The Rink, as well as the hiring of a short track speed skating national coach. It is apt that we start off the report by expressing our gratitude to Singapore Sports Council for the continuous support and belief in the sport.

### **Rigorous Training**

Since the opening of JCube The Rink in April 2012, the Short Track Speed Skating team finally has a training base and home. Ice time hours are precious, the Short Track Speed Skating NSA hours are Wednesday night 9.45 - 10.45 pm, and Saturday morning 7.15 – 9.15 am. The on-ice practice sessions are 3 hours a week, with add-on off-ice land trainings on Tuesday and Thursday evenings, and supplementary Monday. In total, short track speed skating trains four to five times a week, totally twelve training hours per week.

### **Short Track Speed Skating National Coach**

Short Track Speed Skating coaching expertise was non-existent in Singapore. With the support of Singapore Sports Council, we were privileged to have Miss Sun Dandan, a two times Olympics Silver medalist at Winter Olympic Games 1998 Nagano Japan and Winter Olympics Games 2002 Salt Lake City, to helm the position of National Head Coach for Short Track Speed Skating. She won a total of 16 World Championships titles and was previous holder of two World Records. She had over ten years of coaching experience at the national winter sports center in Changchun China.

### **Athletes Development**

In 2012-2013 is also a year which our short track speed skaters saw a marked improvement of their personal performance. Notably our top skater Lucas Ng, who achieved his personal best time for 500m at a top speed of 46.467s at the ISU World Cup Shanghai China in December 2012 and made qualification for the ISU World Championships.

### **Participation in National and International Competitions**

Besides the first Singapore National Championships held in JCube The Rink in August 2012, our short track speed skaters represented Singapore in the following regional and international competitions:

- Thailand Nationals (June 2012)
- Thailand King of Speed (December 2012)
- ISU World Cup Nagoya Japan (December 2012)
- ISU World Cup Shanghai China (December 2012)
- ISU World Junior Championships Warsaw Poland (February 2013)
- ISU World Championships Debrecen Hungary (March 2013)

### **Learn To Skate and Outreach**

The Learn To Skate Advanced Blades Speed 1 course was introduced and first rolled out in February 2012. The Learn To Skate (LTS) Speed program will be a conduit to develop young talents in the sport. In fact, to further nurture the passion, the NSA short track speed skating ice sessions are made available and open to young skaters from the LTS programs.

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## Special Olympics

Short Track Speed Skating is committed to active volunteerism and playing a role in giving back to the community. Members of the Short Track Speed Skating community have assisted in helping students from the Special Olympics Singapore in their training and preparation for participation in Short Track Speed Skating competition events in the Special Olympics World Winter Games.

The 2013 Special Olympics World Winter Games took place in Pyeong Chang, South Korea, from 29 January to 5 February 2013. The student athletes from Special Olympics Singapore were led by team head coach Mr. Lucas Ng, and brought back four golds, one silver, two bronzes.



Phil Anthony Labramonte Razo. One of the skater who represented Singapore in the Special Olympics World Winter Games 2013. He won a gold medal in the 333m (division 17).

## Professional Development

A Short Track Speed Skating Officials Workshop and Seminar was organized by SISA on 10-12 June 2012 with a total of 23 participants. The facilitator and instructor of the workshop was ISU Referee Mr. Kevin Nicolle.



Theory session



Technical Session

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## Singapore Short track Speed Skating Regional Camp

SISA held a first-ever Short Track Speed Skating Regional Camp on 20-23 December 2012 at The Rink at JCube. This is a first regional short track speed skating camp. We are pleased to have our neighboring countries from Malaysia and Thailand join us in our first regional camp in Singapore. The facilitator and head coach of the camp was Miss Sun Dandan and her assistant Mr. Eric Lee Chulwon. A total of 30 skaters local and from the region participated in the camp, and we were encouraged by the highly-positive feedback from the participants.



Participants with assistant coach, Mr. Eric Lee



Participants from Malaysia with Coach Sun Dan Dan

## **In the Coming Year: Preparation for the world stage**

The coming year will be one to watch as it is the year of Winter Olympics Games (WOG) Sochi 2014. We hope to be able to put our best foot forward for the WOG Olympics Qualifying Events. We also hope to create visibility for Singapore on the world stage by playing host to world-level events and competitions, such as the World Development Trophy. In the coming year, we also hope to encourage increased participation from young skaters below 12 years old in the sport of Short Track Speed Skating.

**Helen Chai**

**Director of Short Track Speed Skating**