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**For Immediate Release**

## **STRONG PERFORMANCE BY TEAM SINGAPORE AT BIGGEST ‘YOUTH OLYMPICS OF SKILLS’**

*Team Singapore clinched two Golds at WorldSkills Abu Dhabi 2017*

Team Singapore won **2 Golds and 3 Bronzes** amidst stiff competition at the largest ‘Youth Olympics of Skills’ held in Abu Dhabi from 15-18 October 2017. Held every two years, the WorldSkills Competition (WSC) is the largest skills championship that gathers the best global talents to compete in various skilled professions and trades. Team Singapore comprised **21 competitors** from the Institute of Technical Education (ITE) and the five Polytechnics who competed in **19 skill areas** over four days.

2 Team Singapore clinched **2 Gold Medals** in 3D Digital Game Art and Freight Forwarding, **3 Bronze Medals** in Health and Social Care, Information Network Cabling and IT Network Systems Administration, and **8 Medallions of Excellence**. The medal haul is better than the last competition held in São Paulo, Brazil, when Singapore clinched 1 Silver, 2 Bronzes and 14 Medallions for Excellence.

### **Medals Won by Team Singapore**

3 Singapore won Golds in two new areas – **3D Digital Game Art** and **Freight Forwarding**. These areas represent fast-growing skills in the global economy. ITE Graduate and current Nanyang Polytechnic student, **Ng Jun Xuan**, won Gold in 3D Digital Game Art and emerged as the ‘Best of Nation’ winner, too. Temasek Polytechnic graduate, Olivia Low, won Singapore’s second Gold in Freight Forwarding.

4 Singapore also won Bronze Medals in three areas, which we had done well previously. Nanyang Polytechnic graduate, **Fazira Bte Zulkifli**, achieved a Bronze Medal in **Health and Social Care**. Another Nanyang Polytechnic student, **Li Kangli**, clinched Bronze in **IT Network Systems Administration**. **Andrew Tan**, an ITE and Singapore Polytechnic alumnus, won the third Bronze for **Information Network Cabling**.

5 Team Singapore also achieved **8 Medallions for Excellence** awarded to competitors who scored at least 700 out of 800 points.

6 Details of Singapore’s medal achievements are reflected in **Annex A**.

7 Medallists will receive cash rewards sponsored by **SkillsFuture Singapore (SSG)** to reaffirm the nation’s support towards promoting skills excellence and careers amongst youths.

### **Singapore’s Medal Ranking**

8 Based on medal tally, Singapore is ranked 12<sup>th</sup> globally at WorldSkills Abu Dhabi 2017. For a small nation, Singapore has performed well, outshining advanced countries,



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such as Sweden and the United Kingdom. The top five performing countries are China (15 Golds), Switzerland (11 Golds), Korea (8 Golds), Brazil (7 Golds) and Russia (6 Golds).

9 Mr Bruce Poh, Singapore's Official Delegate to WorldSkills International and Executive Deputy Chairman, WorldSkills Singapore Council, said: "The competition is getting bigger, better and tougher. There is growing interest amongst both developed and developing countries to take part in WorldSkills. It is a great learning experience for countries, officials, educators, experts and the competitors. We are very proud of Team Singapore's achievements. This competition has given them a good insight of the standards of skills among their counterparts globally. It will inspire them to continue improving and sharpening their skills amidst rapid industry and technology transformation."

10 WSC 2017 is the largest to date, attracting close to 1,300 competitors from 60 countries and regions competing in over 50 skill areas. The skill areas cut across six skills sectors – Construction and Building Technology, Creative Arts and Fashion, Information and Communication Technology, Manufacturing and Engineering Technology, Social and Personal Services and Transportation and Logistics.

### **Singapore's Participation in WSC**

11 The WSC is aligned with the national SkillsFuture movement, where Singaporeans are encouraged to develop deep skills and be lifelong learners to remain relevant to their careers.

12 For the first time, Mr Ong Ye Kung, Minister for Education (Higher Education and Skills) supported Team Singapore in Abu Dhabi. Mr Ng Cher Pong, Chairman, WorldSkills Singapore Council and Chief Executive, SkillsFuture Singapore, and Official Delegate Mr Bruce Poh led Team Singapore in its 12<sup>th</sup> participation in WSC. For more information on WSC and Singapore's participation, please refer to **Annex C**.

13 The next WorldSkills Competition will be held in Kazan, Russia, in 2019.

### **Invitation to Media**

14 Members of the media are invited to publicise Singapore's performance at the WorldSkills Competition 2017. Team Singapore will return to Singapore via SQ495 and touch down in Singapore on Saturday 21 October, 7:30 am.

For further information and/or arrangement for interviews, please contact:

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**Annex A**

**TEAM SINGAPORE AT WORLDSKILLS COMPETITION 2017**

No.	Competitor Name	Institution	Skill Area	Award
1	Ng Jun Xuan	Nanyang Polytechnic <i>(ITE Graduate in Nitec in Digital Animation, ITE College Central)</i>	3D Digital Game Art	Gold and Best of Nation Award
2	Olivia Low	Temasek Polytechnic	Freight Forwarding	Gold
3	Andrew Tan Kai Hao	Singapore Polytechnic <i>(ITE Graduate in Higher Nitec in Electrical Engineering, from ITE College East)</i>	Information Network Cabling	Bronze
4	Li Kangli	Nanyang Polytechnic	IT Network Systems Administration	Bronze
5	Fazira Bte Zulkifli	Nanyang Polytechnic	Health and Social Care	Bronze
6	Muhammad Danial Bin Suboh	Republic Polytechnic	Cooking	Medallion for Excellence
7	Clarence Tay	Temasek Polytechnic	Web Design and Development	Medallion for Excellence
8	Clarence Lim Yi An and Eljer Chua	Nanyang Polytechnic	Mechatronics	Medallion for Excellence
9	Low Kin Lin	Nanyang Polytechnic	Graphic Design Technology	Medallion for Excellence
10	Rachel Ho Min Li	Nanyang Polytechnic	CNC Turning	Medallion for Excellence
11	Ng Si Si, Khloe	Institute of Technical Education	Beauty Therapy	Medallion for Excellence
12	Dylan Lim Wei Kang	Singapore Polytechnic	Electronics	Medallion for Excellence
13	Zahirah Bte Zainol	Institute of Technical Education	Restaurant Service	Medallion for Excellence
14	Low Wei Ting	Nanyang Polytechnic <i>(ITE Graduate in Nitec in Aerospace Avionics, ITE College)</i>	Aircraft Maintenance	Certificate of Participation



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No.	Competitor Name	Institution	Skill Area	Award
		<i>Central)</i>		
15	Muhammad Zafhir Bin Nordin	Nanyang Polytechnic <i>(ITE Graduate in Higher Nitec in Visual Merchandising, ITE College Central)</i>	Visual Merchandising	Certificate of Participation
16	Tay Sze Seng, Raymond and Wong Shu Ting	Nanyang Polytechnic	Mobile Robotics	Certificate of Participation
17	Ho Yi Shu, Keon	Ngee Ann Polytechnic	Industrial Control	Certificate of Participation
18	Loy Chen Yi, Lucas	Singapore Polytechnic	CNC Milling	Certificate of Participation
19	Teo Jun Yi, Austin	Temasek Polytechnic	IT Software Solutions for Business	Certificate of Participation

## Annex B

### REWARDS FOR TEAM SINGAPORE'S MEDALLISTS AT WORLDSKILLS COMPETITION 2017

#### Background

- Previously, Cash Prizes for WSC Medallists were disbursed through the WorldSkills Singapore Council Fund. In 2015, the value of the Cash Prizes increased due to sponsorship from then-Singapore Workforce Development Agency (WDA).
- This year, **SkillsFuture Singapore (SSG)** took over from WDA as Team Singapore's Official Sponsor. To show continual support in skills, SSG will sponsor the **same value of Cash Prizes** as WDA in 2015.
- On top of the Cash Prize, Medallists will also receive a Medal from the competition organisers.

#### Cash Prizes for Medallists in WSC 2017

Type of Medal	Value of Award
Albert Vidal Award*	\$30,000
Gold	\$20,000
Silver	\$10,000
Bronze	\$5,000
Medallion for Excellence #	\$1,000

\*The Albert Vidal Award is a prestigious award named after the founder of the WorldSkills international. In memory of Albert Vidal, this Award recognises the competitor(s) who achieves the overall highest score out of all competitors in all skill categories. The winner of the Albert Vidal Award would also be a Gold Medal winner, and hence will receive \$50,000 in all (\$20,000 for the Gold Medal and \$30,000 for the Albert Vidal Award).

#The Medallion for Excellence is awarded to competitors who achieve above-average scores (more than 700 points out of 800 points).

## Annex C

### SINGAPORE'S PARTICIPATION AT WORLDSKILLS COMPETITION SERIES

#### Overview of WorldSkills Competition

Over 60 years, the WorldSkills Competition (WSC), organised by WorldSkills International, has come to symbolise the pinnacle of excellence in skilled trades and technologies training.

Every two years, hundreds of young skilled people, accompanied by their teachers, coaches and trainers, gather from around the world, to compete in the skills of their various trades and test themselves against demanding international standards. They represent the best of their peers drawn from regional and national skills competitions.

First introduced as a national skills competition in Madrid, Spain, in 1947, to raise the image of vocational training in the country, the WSC became an international competition in 1950 with two participating countries – Spain and Portugal.

From an initial 12 competitors, the Competition has since grown to attract close to 1,300 competitors from more than 60 countries/regions, competing in over 50 skills areas at this year's Competition. It has been hosted by numerous cities and countries around the world, including Dublin (Ireland), Glasgow (UK), Brussels (Belgium), Amsterdam (the Netherlands), Lyon (France), Montreal (Canada), Seoul (South Korea), St Gallen (Switzerland), Helsinki (Finland), Shizuoka (Japan), Calgary (Canada), London (UK), Leipzig (Germany) and most recently São Paulo (Brazil).

The experience and results gained through participating in the WSC provide valuable feedback both to the individual competitors and to their training organisations. For some, it is recognition for outstanding achievement, while for others, it provides the motivation and knowledge to aspire to higher standards. Many competitors have gone on to do well in their careers. For the onlookers, it is an eye-opening experience to see highly competent young skills talents in action. The Competition is particularly effective in the context of providing positive career role models for school-aged youths.

#### About WorldSkills International

WorldSkills International (WSI) is a not-for-profit membership association, open to agencies or bodies, which have a responsibility for promoting vocational education and training in their respective countries/regions. There are currently **77 Member countries and regions**. WSI operates worldwide and is politically and denominationally neutral. The WSI Secretariat is currently located in Amsterdam, the Netherlands.

WSI provides a unique means of exchange and comparison of world-class competency standards in the industrial trades and service sectors of the global economy. The continued growth of WorldSkills attests to the fact that traditional trade and craft skills, along with the newer technology multi-skilled vocations, make an essential contribution to the economic and social well-being of people everywhere.

As a free-standing, non-political organisation, WSI provides a cost-effective means for international government and industry cooperation in achieving higher standards and status for vocational education and training on a worldwide basis.

### **Singapore's Participation in WSC**

ITE's participation in WorldSkills was initiated in 1992, when then-Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong, at the inauguration of ITE as a post-secondary education institution, suggested that ITE raise the image of technical education and profile of skilled professions by taking part in international skills competitions.

In 1993, ITE joined WorldSkills International, a non-profit organisation whose mission is to promote the image of skills and skilled careers through competitions and exchanges for youths. In 1994, ITE organised the first National Skills Competition (now known as WorldSkills Singapore Competition) and led the first Singapore team to participate in the WSC in 1995 held in Lyon, France.

Eleven WorldSkills Singapore (WSS) Competitions have since been organised biennially by ITE, in conjunction with the Polytechnics. The WSS is open to Singaporeans (not older than 21 years old) from secondary schools, Junior Colleges, Polytechnics, ITE, companies and other institutions of higher learning. Top medal winners from the WSS are then selected to represent Singapore at the WSC. The last WSS Competition was held in July 2016.

In 2008, Singapore took part in the ASEAN Skills Competition, a regional version of the WSC, for the first time. The last ASEAN Skills Competition was held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, in September 2016.

At the 43<sup>rd</sup> WSC in São Paulo, Brazil, in 2015, our competitors achieved a record number of Medals and Medallions for Excellence in 17 out of the 20 skills areas it participated in. The Team clinched One Silver Medal, Two Bronze Medals and 14 Medallions for Excellence.



### Team Singapore's Track Record at WSC

The table below summarises Team Singapore's performance at the WSC from 1995 onwards:

S/N	Competition	Year	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Medallion for Excellence
1	44 <sup>th</sup> WSC, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates	2017	2	0	3	8
2	43 <sup>rd</sup> WSC, São Paulo, Brazil	2015	0	1	2	14
3	42 <sup>nd</sup> WSC, Leipzig, Germany	2013	3	2	0	9
4	41 <sup>st</sup> WSC, London, England	2011	4	1	2	7
5	40 <sup>th</sup> WSC, Calgary, Canada	2009	3	0	1	8
6	39 <sup>th</sup> WSC, Shizuoka, Japan	2007	3	0	1	6
7	38 <sup>th</sup> WSC, Helsinki, Finland	2005	2	0	1	3
8	37 <sup>th</sup> WSC, St Gallen, Switzerland	2003	2	1	1	5
9	36 <sup>th</sup> WSC, Seoul, South Korea	2001	2	2	1	2
10	35 <sup>th</sup> WSC, Montreal, Canada	1999	2	0	0	4
11	34 <sup>th</sup> WSC, St Gallen, Switzerland	1997	1	1	0	3
12	33 <sup>rd</sup> WSC, Lyon, France	1995	1	0	1	2