


CELEBRATING AN
EXTRAORDINARY
JOURNEY







We may speak a different language,
our watch may tell a different time,
and we may sing to a different tune.
But what unites us is our shared aspiration for our region
– our home.

And no matter where home may be,
we are all connected through our individual journeys;
to find our own extraordinary, be it big, or small.

A groundsman working round the clock to ready the pitch.
A fan raising an extra decibel to will on her team.
An athlete sacrificing years to shave off a second.

Whoever we are or wherever we're heading,
one thing always remains the same;
that success ultimately comes
to ordinary people with extraordinary dreams.

Celebrate the extraordinary.



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AN EXTRAORDINARY JOURNEY

From 5 to 16 June 2015, some 7,000 athletes and officials participated in 36 sports and 402 events at the 28th SEA Games. Competition lasted two weeks, but preparations began as early as 2011, when Singapore was announced as the host for the 28th edition of the Games.

It was an extraordinary journey, one shared by athletes, officials and the people of Southeast Asia. The many wonderful memories of sporting excellence and friendship will stay with us for a long time to come, till the next Games in Kuala Lumpur and beyond.

THE JOURNEY OF THE 28TH SEA GAMES

① 22 Dec 2013 Taking over the Games from Myanmar

At the Closing Ceremony of the 27th SEA Games in Naypyidaw, His Excellency U Tint Hsan, Chairman of the Myanmar SEA Games Organising Committee, handed over the SEA Games Federation flag to Mr Tan Chuan-Jin, then Acting Minister for Manpower and Singapore National Olympic Council Executive Committee Member.

② 15 February 2014 Official laun

The Games was officially launched in Singapore with a party at Gardens by the Bay. The mascot, logo and tagline of the Games were unveiled by President Tony Tan, key members of the SEA Games Organising Committee and Team Singapore athletes. A lineup of artistes also performed the first Songs of the Games.



③ 27 June 2014 One year to go

The 28th SEA Games marked its one-year countdown with the Sports Hub Community Open House, where members of the public were invited to experience this key venue of the Games for the first time.



④ 7 March 2015 3 months to go

The 28th SEA Games marked its three-month countdown with the OneTeamSG Rally at Orchard Road, where Singaporeans came together as one to show their support for Team Singapore.



⑤ 16 April 2015 50 days to go

Fifty days of counting down began. The community got involved by choosing a number starting from 50 that was meaningful to them. They then created numerical formations, which were featured every day as we counted down to the Games.

⑥ 4 June 2015 SEA Games torch in the community

The community had a preview of the 28th SEA Games torch at Community Sports Festivals around the island. Community flames were lit, representing the local community's spirit and support for Team Singapore athletes.



⑦ 4 June 2015 Torch light-up at Marina Promontory

One day before the Opening Ceremony, the SEA Games torch was lit by Minister for Culture, Community and Youth Mr Lawrence Wong at the Marina Promontory and then paraded in a 2.5km torch relay by Team Nila volunteers around Marina Bay.



⑧ 5 June 2015 28th SEA Games opens

The 28th SEA Games opened with a stunning Opening Ceremony with lights, music and drama, complete with fireworks and the lighting of the SEA Games cauldron.



⑨ 16 June 2015 Handover to Malaysia

Singapore bid farewell to regional athletes and officials at the Closing Ceremony. The SEA Games flame was extinguished, and Mr Tan Chuan-Jin, Singapore's Minister for Social and Family Development and President of the SEA Games Federation, handed over the SEA Games Federation flag to Mr Khairy Jamaluddin Abu Bakar, Malaysia's Minister for Youth and Sport and Chairman of the 29th SEA Games Organising Committee.

CELEBRATING PEOPLE

In 2015 thousands came together as one.

Students, performers and groundsmen. Volunteers, musicians and spectators. Officials, umpires and ushers. The 28th SEA Games brought them all together as one people, united by sports.



*"Just believe that you could be
more than ordinary"*

Ordinary, written by Amir Masoh, performed by The Sam Willows

A photograph of Mr Lawrence Wong, Chairman of the Singapore Southeast Asian Games Organising Committee (SINGSOC), cheering enthusiastically at the 28th SEA Games. He is wearing a red polo shirt with the SINGSOC logo and is holding up a Singapore flag. Other people in the background are also cheering and holding flags.

INSPIRING GAMES, EXTRAORDINARY SPIRIT

Mr Lawrence Wong, Chairman, Steering Committee, Singapore Southeast Asian Games Organising Committee (SINGSOC), shares his favourite moments from the 28th SEA Games.

When the 28th SEA Games came to town, it was as if the whole of Singapore had been transformed into a giant sporting playground. And Mr Lawrence Wong, Singapore's Minister for Culture, Community and Youth, and Second Minister for Communications and Information, was right there in the thick of the action.

A self-professed lifelong sports fan, he zipped from sport to sport, from venue to venue, attending as many games as his schedule permitted. He relished every moment along the way, from the nail-biting netball final where Singapore triumphed after fighting Malaysia neck and neck in the last quarter, to the record-smashing feats of the athletes from across all the contingents.

"The athletes' determination and will to excel was really inspiring," says Mr Wong, who was also Chairman of the Singapore Southeast Asian Games Organising Committee (SINGSOC) Steering Committee for the 28th SEA Games.

Singapore did not set out to organise the largest edition of the SEA Games, he says. It would be a challenge to do so given its infrastructural constraints. But what the host nation lacked, it more than made up for it in spirit.

"We aimed to make the Games meaningful and special to everyone," Mr Wong continues. "That was why we had the theme Celebrate the Extraordinary. We wanted this Games to be extraordinary for each and every individual in his or her own way."

"We aimed to make the Games meaningful and special to everyone. That was why we had the theme Celebrate the Extraordinary. We wanted this Games to be extraordinary for each and every individual in his or her own way."

As it turned out, Mr Wong's personal SEA Games journey was nothing short of extraordinary as well. What was especially eye-opening for him was seeing everyone – athletes, fans and volunteers – going the extra mile to make it a special Games.

Throughout the Games period, he cheered from the spectator stands as well as on the ground. "When I spoke to some Team Nila volunteers at the tail end of the Games, they were all in high spirits, but I think they were having some withdrawal symptoms," he says with a laugh. "They wanted to continue to be part of such an incredible experience. That was wonderful to see among the volunteers."

Some of the most poignant moments of the Games for Mr Wong came on 8 June, the Day of Remembrance declared by the Singapore Government to remember the Singaporeans who had lost their lives in the Sabah earthquake. Athletes and spectators at all competitions that day observed a minute of silence. Team Singapore athletes also dedicated their victories to the victims. "The athletes moved hearts with their solidarity with the victims' families and friends," he says.

Another highlight for him was hearing from the athletes and officials about how much they had enjoyed the Games. He recounts with a note of pride that many spoke positively of the well-run games and the use of technologies such as the SEA Games app, live streaming and mobile TV for a smooth-running and accessible Games.

"But our visitors had expected Singapore to do well when it came to organisation, efficiency and technology. What surprised them instead was the sense of the whole country coming together for the Games," he says. "The venues were packed with cheering Singaporeans. Taxi drivers and people in the street – everyone was talking about the SEA Games."

Most significant for Mr Wong, and perhaps for many Singaporeans as well, was the opportunity to host regional sports fans and athletes in Singapore in the same year the nation celebrated its 50th year of nationhood.

He says: "We united behind sports and cheered for the 28th SEA Games as one community. It was a jubilee Games we would all remember."

A sports fan himself, Mr Wong relished every moment of the Games.



A LOGO THAT CELEBRATES THE EXTRAORDINARY

The 28th SEA Games logo represents the meeting of Southeast Asia and the dreams of individuals united in the spirit of the Games. Its central motif – an athlete crossing the finishing line in jubilation – celebrates the extraordinary potential in all of us. Other icons representing a range of sports also stand for the strength, focus, grace, and skills in sport, while the vibrant palette of colours conveys the dynamic energy of sports.

The logo was designed by Ms Lim Sau Hoong and her team at 10AM Communications. Ms Lim was a member of the Sponsorship and Marketing Advisory Sub-Committee of the 28th SEA Games as well as the visual advisor to the 2008 Beijing Olympics Opening Ceremony.



EXTRAORDINARY STORIES

#01

ONE CITY COUNTING DOWN TO THE GAMES

For 50 days, some 45,500 people from 62 schools and organisations rallied across Singapore to count down to the 28th SEA Games. Nanyang Polytechnic kicked it off with light-up formation of the figure “50” by athletes, residents and students. On subsequent days, participants created formations – with people, recycled materials, cars and more – to mark the countdown numbers in support of the Games. This culminated in the sports volunteers – Team Nila – rounding off the festivities with an oversized human “1” at the National Stadium.

(Top row, L to R) Nanyang Polytechnic and residents from Ang Mo Kio; London School of Business and Finance; Compassvale Primary School; DBS Singapore; National Kidney Foundation; CWT Limited; SportCares; Park View Primary School; Sport Singapore; 41st Battalion Singapore Armoured Regiment

(Second row from top, L to R) Corporation Primary School; WengsWorld Jigsaw Puzzles; Henry Park Primary School; Woodlands Ring Primary School; Yio Chu Kang Community Sports Club; Temasek Primary School; East Coast Primary School; Yayasan MENDAKI; Young Team Singapore Ambassadors; Fuchun Secondary School

(Third row from top, L to R) Jiemin Primary School; Tampines Primary School; Punggol Green Primary School; Northland Primary School; Telok Kurau Primary School; Temasek Polytechnic; AXA Singapore; Nanyang Polytechnic; Shelton College International; Tampines North Primary School

(Fourth row from top, L to R) Ministry of Social and Family Development; Dunman Secondary School; NTUC FairPrice; Canberra Primary School; Ferrari Club Singapore; Compassvale Secondary School; Pasir Ris West; Republic Polytechnic; LionsXII; Deli Hub Catering

(Bottom row, L to R) Young NTUC; Rajah & Tann; Qihua Primary School; Singapore Polytechnic; Singtel; OneKM; Scuderia FSG; United Square; Deloitte Singapore; Team Nila



45,537
pax
from 62
schools and
organisations
participated



FAB FANS

They cheered. They chanted. They roared. They lit up the arenas in their national reds, blues and yellows. They danced and waved their flags; they wore face paint and donned wacky fan gear. Passionate supporters from around the region travelled to Singapore to stand behind their home teams loudly and proudly – and made the 28th SEA Games one spirited, fabulous show.

**TOTAL
NUMBER_{OF}
SPECTATORS:
MORE THAN
500,000**



SINGAPORE

The host nation made itself heard.



THAILAND

The Thais brought colour to every event they attended.



One yellow star, boundless support for Vietnam.

VIETNAM



They came. They saw. They cheered their hearts out.





Resplendent in their tiger stripes, the spectators from Malaysia turned up in force.







Indonesian colours - ying high.





Supporting their countries in their own unique ways.



EXTRAORDINARY STORIES

#02

VOLUNTEERS COME IN ALL AGES AND SIZES

Such was the diversity of the 17,000-strong Team Nila, the SEA Games volunteer contingent. The youngest volunteer was Charlotte Ng, 8, while the oldest was Joseph Tan, 87. Having volunteered for the past three SEA Games editions held in Singapore, Tang Chun Tuck, 61, helped out again this year. Avid sports fan and Briton James Martin Garner, 53, saw volunteering as a way to get to know Singapore better. Coming from all walks of life, the SEA Games volunteers bonded over sports and the passion for giving.

17,000 volunteers recruited

Joseph Tan, 87,
Volunteer Photographer.



Team Nila volunteers (from left):
Chan Phong Kheng, 40, Media Relations Officer,
Fasiha Binte Mohd Nazren, 18, Media Relations Officer,
Ng Chee Yong Joven, 33, Media Relations Officer,
Kamisah Binte Papok, 49, Media Relations Manager,
Ong Hui Sin, 19, Media Relations Officer.

Charlotte Ng, 8,
Sports Results Specialist.

James Martin Garner, 53,
Volunteer Anti-doping Officer.

FROM OFFICE_{TO} STADIUM

They work hard at their day jobs. And even harder as volunteers at the SEA Games. Meet Napae Terapigitera and Elvina Chieng, who brought their skills from the workplace into the sporting arena.

Smooth flow. Good people management. Happy spectators. These were the things Napae Terapigitera, 27, focused on as an Assistant Venue Workforce Manager at the Singapore Indoor Stadium during the SEA Games.

The role was perfect for the volunteer. In her day job as a manager at a logistics company in Thailand, she makes sure big shipments move without a hitch every day.

The Games wasn't a whole new ball game for Napae, who had volunteered at the 2010 Youth Olympics in Singapore. "I enjoyed it so much I had to volunteer again," she says. Volunteering is her way of giving back. "You enlarge your heart when you give without expecting much in return" she adds.

There are perks, nonetheless. As someone who enjoys travelling, Napae relishes the exposure she gets at an international event like the Games. She loves the camaraderie among the volunteers. "I was thrilled to be back for another big sporting event in Singapore," she says.

At the Games, Napae was part of a team that managed more than 800 volunteers. "My role was about people, which made it challenging," she says. "But it was heartening to get to know all these passionate volunteers. I built wonderful friendships. It was priceless witnessing everyone's heart as one."



Napae Terapigitera,
Assistant Venue Workforce Manager.



Elvina Chieng,
Events Services Marshal.

Everyone had the same agenda: to make sure the spectators had a good time. The teamwork was memorable.

"It's really different when you watch a sport match live," says Elvina Chieng, 24. "The atmosphere is so charged, you'd want to join in the match too!" In the past, Elvina was never interested in watching sports. But that changed when she volunteered at the 28th SEA Games as an Events Services Marshal.

Her duties included ushering ticket holders during the netball, basketball and volleyball matches. "I put my soft skills to good use," says Elvina, whose day job as a procurement officer in the marine industry involves maintaining good relations with suppliers.

The SEA Games was Elvina's first volunteering experience at a large-scale event. "It was eye-opening," she recalls. "I didn't know there was so much to be done. At the start, we even had 12-hour days!"

A collective spirit helped the volunteers pull through. "Everyone had the same agenda: to make sure the spectators had a good time," she says. "The teamwork was memorable." And was there a reward for all that hard work? "New friends!" Elvina adds with a chuckle. "I met many who inspired me, and I look forward to deepening our friendships even after the Games."

EXTRAORDINARY STORIES

#03

A HANDMADE PIECE OF HISTORY

The community was involved in the 28th SEA Games in no small way. For six months before the Games, some 14,300 members of the Singapore public got into the spirit by making and decorating more than 4,730 Nila mascot plush toys by hand in the Make-a-Nila campaign.

Embodying the people's best wishes, these toys were presented to winning athletes during victory ceremonies. With no two toys exactly the same, the athletes each took home a unique memorabilia. The initiative even made it into the Singapore Book of Records for the largest display of handmade plush toys.



4,739
NILAS
INDIVIDUALLY MADE
BY 14,000
OVER
COMMUNITY
MEMBERS

Went into the Singapore Book of Records for "Largest Display of Handmade Plush Toys"



FOUR SEA GAMES AND COUNTING

Tang Chun Tuck has volunteered at every Singapore-hosted SEA Games. “There is better organisation now and while in the past the opening and closing ceremonies featured manual flip boards, they’re all about technology these days,” he says. Still, one thing hasn’t changed: the spirit of sacrifice from the Games volunteers.



Tang Chun Tuck,
Volunteer Media Relations Officer.

2015 marks Singapore’s Golden Jubilee – and Tang Chun Tuck’s 50th year as a volunteer. Since he was 12, Chun Tuck has volunteered with the Singapore Red Cross (SRC), where he is now Senior Advisor.

Through SRC, the “serial volunteer” offered his first-aid skills in the three SEA Games editions previously hosted in Singapore – in 1973, 1983 and 1993. This year, instead of carrying out first-aid duties, Chun Tuck, 61, was a Media Relations Officer. “I can’t run around as much as before,” he jokes.

His new role demanded no less from him. He facilitated requests from the media, informed them of the best views and worked like a “help-desk” giving journalists start lists, official results and other information. “We worked Singapore-style: quickly, efficiently,” he says.

The adrenaline rush kept him on his toes. “It was gratifying to act swiftly on requests,” says Chun Tuck. He recalls an incident where some photographers had arrived late and missed out on a good vantage for the start of the 100m races. The quick-witted retiree then guided them to another spot to capture good angles of the finishing line.

“When they got their shot, their disappointment turned into joy,” says Chun Tuck. “How could I not feel happy too? Joy comes from knowing you’ve been useful.

“The spirit of volunteerism demands that you sacrifice and give freely. Volunteers love going the extra mile.”

GIVING BACK TOGETHER

Sumarsih Jaya Sukarta's family experienced the joy of sports through SportCares, and decided to give back to sports as volunteers for the SEA Games.

For 10-year-old Nur Alia Maisara Malek, the tennis court is her playground. Together with her sisters, Nurain, 14, and Nur Nabila, 12, she has been learning to play tennis in a programme organised by SportCares Foundation.

The foundation activates sport as a force for social good by linking those in need with passionate volunteers through sports programmes.

Today, the sisters are tennis fans. "My dream was to meet WTA Finalist Simona Halep," says Alia. "When that happened, it was great!"

Alia met the top-seeded Romanian tennis player twice thanks to Sport Singapore, Women's Tennis Association (WTA) and World Sport Group. Their first encounter was at the WTA Finals 2014 SportCares clinic; the second time around, at the WTA Finals 2015 press conference where Simona gave some personal advice to Alia and her best friend Hayati. Such experiences make all the difference for the SportCares kids.

"Through SportCares, my kids get exposed to different sports," says Sumarsih Jaya Sukarta, 41, the mother of the three girls. "This keeps them active and makes them more sociable."

After Sumarsih saw the benefits of her daughters' tennis lessons, she knew they could do more. When an opportunity came for them to volunteer at the SEA Games, they grabbed it. "We felt it was time to give back as a family as well," says Sumarsih.

The mother and daughters held various volunteering roles during the Games. The younger ladies served as official Ball Kid at tennis matches. They all hand made keychains and bracelets for visiting athletes. For Nabila, the best part was meeting the athletes. "We guided them at the Nila Suite and made them feel at home."

Sumarsih agrees. "Meeting our champion swimmer Joseph Schooling face-to-face was unforgettable," she recalls. "I'm glad my family had the chance to be a part of something big."

After the Games, the girls want to continue their explorations in sports. "I enjoy soccer in school," Nurain says. "But I really want to try badminton – that's what I'll do next."



EXTRAORDINARY STORIES

#04

FIGHTING PROUD FOR LAOS

You wouldn't want to mess with Olathay Sounthavong (left in photo) of Laos. Her aggression and class put her on track to the women's pencak silat tanding class B (50-55kg) final, and she showed the world what it meant to never give up. In the semi-final, Olathay was behind in points after two rounds. But she fought back to snatch the win with a decisive score of 4-1 – no mean feat considering that she was up against home crowd favourite Nur Syafiqah Ikhleik Alau'ddin of Singapore. Olathay went on to take the silver medal, one of only four for Laos.



#05

POISE AND POWER

A rising powerhouse in wushu in Southeast Asia, Myanmar has been making waves in the sport. Sandi Oo, one of its wushu stalwarts and a SEA Games veteran, delivered three out of her country's seven medals for wushu at the 28th SEA Games: a gold for the women's optional spear event, and a silver each for the women's optional changquan event and the women's duel event (barehand). Her explosive power, fluid movements and natural poise in the arena made her a clear medal winner and firm fan favourite.



MEET THE OFFICIALS: UNSUNG HEROES

Without them, the Games could not have been staged as smoothly as it had been. These officials ensured that competitions were run fairly and smoothly, and the safety of competitors was prioritised. During the Games, they were on their toes, ever ready to make the right call. Meet Nigel Talamo, Mervyn Liew and Rachel Oh, who share with us about the work they did at the Games.

1,991
Technical
Officials

40
Technical Directors
730
International Officials
1,221
National Officials



NIGEL TALAMO, 60

My job title was Technical Delegate for Waterski and Wakeboard.

The Technical Delegate is the authority on the sport, a person to refer to so the sport is presented correctly.

I oversaw all aspects of the sport and its delivery – anything from specific actions on the field of play to approving bus timetables for athletes. If any questions arose, I was also the one who had to find the answers.

I do not represent any country and can be representing the sport anywhere on the planet. So I rely very much on local organisations to do the hard work. In this case, I have to thank International Waterski & Wakeboard Federation Asian President Paul Fong, who kept things online and on time, making my job easier.

You might find this hard to believe but I find the pace of life in Singapore relaxing, and I love it. This is hard to believe only because I'm a Hong Kong native and we're not supposed to admit that it's so great here in Singapore!

I find it exciting to be involved in this SEA Games because it's also the 50th anniversary of Singapore. It has been fascinating to witness all its new sporting facilities. Investing in infrastructure will help put some of the smaller sports, like waterskiing and wakeboarding, in the spotlight, which can only be good.

I encourage everyone to watch as many sports live as they can. So many sports do not appear as exciting on television as they are when seen in action. I thought synchronised swimming was dreadful until I saw it live in the 2011 SEA Games in Palembang. Now, I'm a big fan of it.



MERVYN LIEW, 44

My job title was National Technical Officer for Cycling – or Commissaire, as we would call it in the cycling world.

I was responsible for the timely and fair execution of events, and the safety of cyclists at the Games. My team ensured a level playing field: cyclists had to begin the race right and also get their bicycles checked. A cyclist's strength, rather than his bike, matters.

The best part of my job was the work done behind the scenes. I witnessed such backstage efforts some 20 years ago, when I competed in the Games. I saw how people put in their heart and soul, no matter how big or small their roles were. It moved me very much and compelled me to contribute to the SEA Games.

As a father, I found it most exciting to share the healthy spirit of competition and sportsmanship with my kids. It was a good time for me to teach them great sporting values.

My favourite part of the Games was the Opening Ceremony. It instilled a sense of responsibility and ownership to the job that I was doing.

You might find this hard to believe but we officials are often under the same mental stress as athletes during events! This is because no one can afford to make a mistake in judgment. We're dealing with state representatives here.

My favourite sport is cycling, of course! And also, triathlons. I used to compete in both these sports. I really miss the days of my youth.



RACHEL OH, 18

My job title was Workforce Coordinator and Games Announcer for Judo.

I was responsible for the organisation and welfare of the Judo Sports Specialist Volunteers and Technical Officers, who handled various aspects of the competition. I also introduced the athletes to the audiences during the matches. During the breaks, I interacted with the crowds through fun trivia games.

My role was to form a bridge between the workforce and the Games' Organising Committee, ensuring that the commitment of the volunteers and officials was recognised. Still, the most important thing was to create a meaningful SEA Games experience for each and every member.

You might find this hard to believe, but I recently picked up judo. During my first lesson, I did more screaming than actual grappling! But I do enjoy the training very much and hope to keep getting better at it.

The SEA Games was exciting because the atmosphere never failed to be electrifying. There was always a thrill seeing people streaming into the stadium and athletes waiting to show everyone what they were made of.

The best part about my job was meeting people from all walks of life. It was inspiring to witness diverse groups of people working together towards a common goal.

My favourite sport is badminton. It's a sport that I played with my family when I was younger. I even played it with my grandmother! Badminton brought me closer to my loved ones and that means a lot to me.

#06

WATERSKIER, BROTHER AND INSPIRATION

Malaysia's Alex Yoong, 38, was an F1 racer before competing in waterskiing. He is also the older brother who inspires his siblings Aaliyah, 11, Aiden, 9, and Adam, 7. The family took home a seven-medal haul from the 28th SEA Games. Alex won silver in the men's overall and bronze in the men's jump and slalom; Aaliyah claimed the women's overall and tricks titles and took silver in the jump; and Aiden took bronze in the men's tricks. For the Yoong family, the sporting life begins from right at home.



#07

THE FASTEST MAN IN SOUTHEAST ASIA

It was his first-ever 100m race, but that didn't stop him from winning it in style. Eric Chauwn Cray (third from right in photo), 26, not only clinched the gold for the Philippines but also set a national record and personal best time of 10.25 seconds. The Filipino-American, born in Olongapo in the Philippines, went on to win his pet event, the men's 400m hurdles, breaking a 20-year SEA Games record with a time of 49.40 seconds.



BEHIND THE SCENES

Although they were mostly out of the public eye, uniformed and medical personnel played key roles in ensuring that the Games was run smoothly.

To name a few: Traffic police officers who directed traffic during road closures; physicians and medical support staff who provided medical care at the Games; and Singapore Armed Forces personnel managing the Opening and Closing Ceremonies. These were the heroes who oiled the wheels of the 28th SEA Games. We salute them.



MINISTRY OF HEALTH, Medical Functional Services

3,000 personnel from hospitals, government agencies, non-governmental organisations and more provided effective, prompt, and quality medical care to the Games.



SINGAPORE POLICE FORCE

7,854 officers ensured safety and security, managed crowd and traffic flow, and provided public communication on security and traffic arrangements.



SINGAPORE ARMED FORCES

8,200 army personnel were deployed to manage the Opening and Closing Ceremonies and transport operations for the Games.

#08

IRON GIRL

She got the nickname "Iron Girl" after breaking seven Games records: the women's 200m, 400m and 800m freestyle, 200m butterfly, 200m backstroke, and 200m and 400m individual medley. Vietnam's Nguyen Thi Anh Vien, 18, collected eight individual golds, which included the 200m breaststroke. Hailed as the new swim queen, she is all set to make bigger waves in the region.



THE MAN BEHIND THE MUSIC

As Music Director of the 28th SEA Games, Dr Sydney Tan created a soundtrack that resonated with people across cultures, age groups and music tastes.

Dr Sydney Tan took the path less travelled as Music Director of the 28th SEA Games: he decided against having the de rigueur theme song.

Instead, he put together a team of Singaporean producers, songwriters and artistes, and created a collection of songs that has now come to be known as The Songs of the Games. These songs feature a wide range of artistes, from Singaporean industry veterans such as Dick Lee and Joshua Wan, to new, exciting talents such as Charlie Lim, Daphne Khoo, Amir Masoh, and indie favourite, The Sam Willows.



**MORE THAN
320,000
STREAMS
800
ALBUMS AND
18,000
TRACKS SOLD**

What the collection features is a rich musical palette across multiple song genres offering diverse perspectives. "All the songs are about celebrating the extraordinary, but each does it in a different way. Every genre brings its own distinctive energy and the writers, their unique view points," explains Sydney.

The ideas and thoughts communicated in the songs, from dreams and journeys to the spirit of overcoming obstacles, show a clear parallel between sports and life. "When we sing 'we are unbreakable' or 'we are the greatest', these aren't sentiments that are limited to sports," says Sydney, "but are feelings that are universal and relevant to life, resonating with people across cultures and demographics."

With the "musical vocabulary" provided by these songs, Sydney went on to create the soundtrack for the Opening and Closing Ceremonies, victory ceremonies and other occasions during the Games.

"The opportunity to direct and produce the music for the 28th SEA Games was a real privilege," says Sydney. "But what was more important to me was for people at the stadium and event venues to be touched and moved by the music, forming memories so that the SEA Games experience would become truly their own."

The Songs of the Games continue as a legacy beyond the Games, which perhaps in itself is truly more than ordinary.

#09

PERSONAL VICTORY, NATIONAL PRIDE

Singapore had waited 42 years for a gold in the women's 200m race. The last Singaporean to medal in the event was Glory Barnabas, who won the gold in the 1973 SEAP Games in a time of 25.6 seconds. Shanti Pereira, 18, who is part of the nation's new crop of young gifted athletes, went for it. With a time of 23.60 seconds in the final, she clinched the gold and broke the national record of 23.82 seconds, which she had set earlier in the heats.





ALL-WEATHER GAMES MAKERS



Rain or shine, indoors or outdoors, on land or water – the 17,000 purple-shirted Team Nila volunteers kept the Games humming along smoothly. Filling roles in everything from logistics and event services to F&B and media relations, they worked selflessly and tirelessly – sometimes even up to 12 hours a day – and loved every minute of it.

Their unswerving passion and dedication, and their spirit of teamwork and sacrifice, made for an extraordinary Games. In return, they gained plenty too: friendships, memories and the experience of a lifetime.





CELEBRATING ACTION

In 2015 the region was left breathless. Pomp and spectacle. Epic victories and heartbreaking defeat. Dramatic comebacks and thrilling play. Records broken and records made. We bore witness to it all in 2015.



*"You are a champion
You are the moment
Within your mental vision
You are unbreakable"*

Unbreakable, written by Amir Masoh, performed by Tabitha Nauser



AN EXTRAORDINARY CELEBRATION

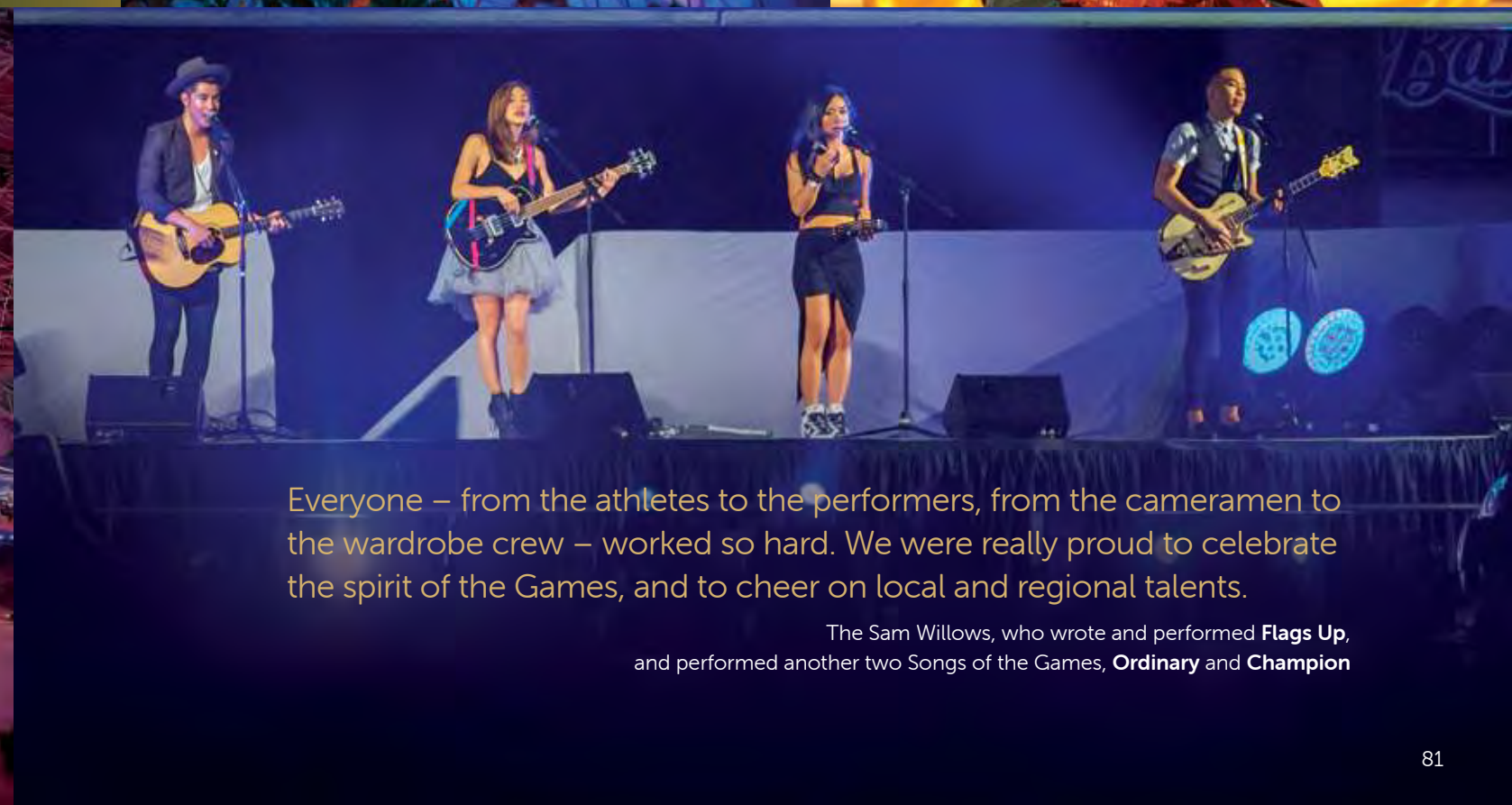
The Opening Ceremony, a stirring kaleidoscope of colours, lights, music and pyrotechnics, set the tone for the extraordinary sporting experience to come. Celebrating the cultures and sporting talents of Singapore and Southeast Asia, the sumptuous visual spectacle climaxed with the torch relay and lighting of the SEA Games cauldron.



Many people supported me when I was battling cancer and developing as an artiste. I wrote **Greatest** with these people in mind. The song is for anyone who wants to be the best that he or she can be.

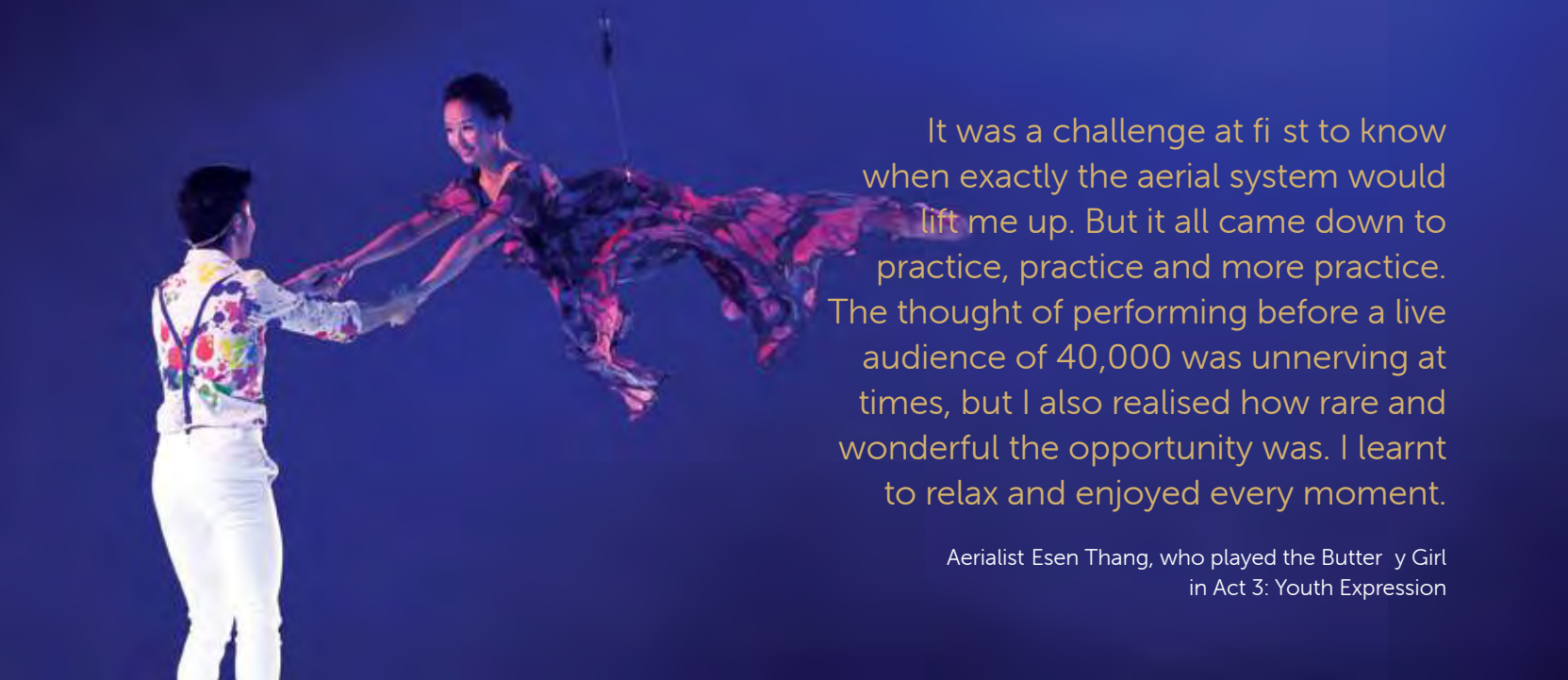
Daphne Khoo, who wrote and performed **Greatest**





Everyone – from the athletes to the performers, from the cameramen to the wardrobe crew – worked so hard. We were really proud to celebrate the spirit of the Games, and to cheer on local and regional talents.

The Sam Willows, who wrote and performed **Flags Up**, and performed another two Songs of the Games, **Ordinary** and **Champion**



It was a challenge at first to know when exactly the aerial system would lift me up. But it all came down to practice, practice and more practice. The thought of performing before a live audience of 40,000 was unnerving at times, but I also realised how rare and wonderful the opportunity was. I learnt to relax and enjoyed every moment.

Aerialist Esen Thang, who played the Butterfly Girl in Act 3: Youth Expression



5,200
volunteer
performers
for opening
and closing
ceremonies



The Opening Ceremony was a technically demanding show that involved over 5,000 performers and took two years to prepare. For the creative and technical teams to pull it off, they had to believe, says Beatrice Chia-Richmond, Creative Director of the Opening and Closing Ceremonies.

To celebrate the extraordinary – the theme of the 28th SEA Games – at the Opening Ceremony, Creative Director Beatrice Chia and her team decided to begin with the ordinary. “All of us start off as ordinary. We wanted people to understand that the leap to the extraordinary is possible if they courageously aspire,” says Beatrice.

This transformation was stunningly portrayed during the Opening Ceremony through five acts: *DNA*, *Imagination*, *Youthful Expression*, *Sports and the City*, and *Singapore in the Stadium*. The message conveyed through these acts was clear. “It takes a nation to raise an athlete,” Beatrice says.

Beatrice and her team referenced Olympic ceremonies and knew they could do more. “We wanted our show to go beyond what the nation could offer,” she says. “We wanted it to gloriously welcome our guests as well.” This was why *The Big Singapore Welcome*, which saw 1,000 performers creating a larger-than-life garden city diorama, was one of her favourite segments. “It was a feast for the eyes,” she recalls.

The show segment featured lights, music and effects such as high-definition floor projections and a giant video screen formed by the stadium audience with their remotely operated LED medallions. Performers and illuminated props, “flying” across the National Stadium via an aerial system, created an immersive, three-dimensional experience for the audience. The stadium looked like a galaxy of stars – an extraordinary night for the spectators, to say the least.

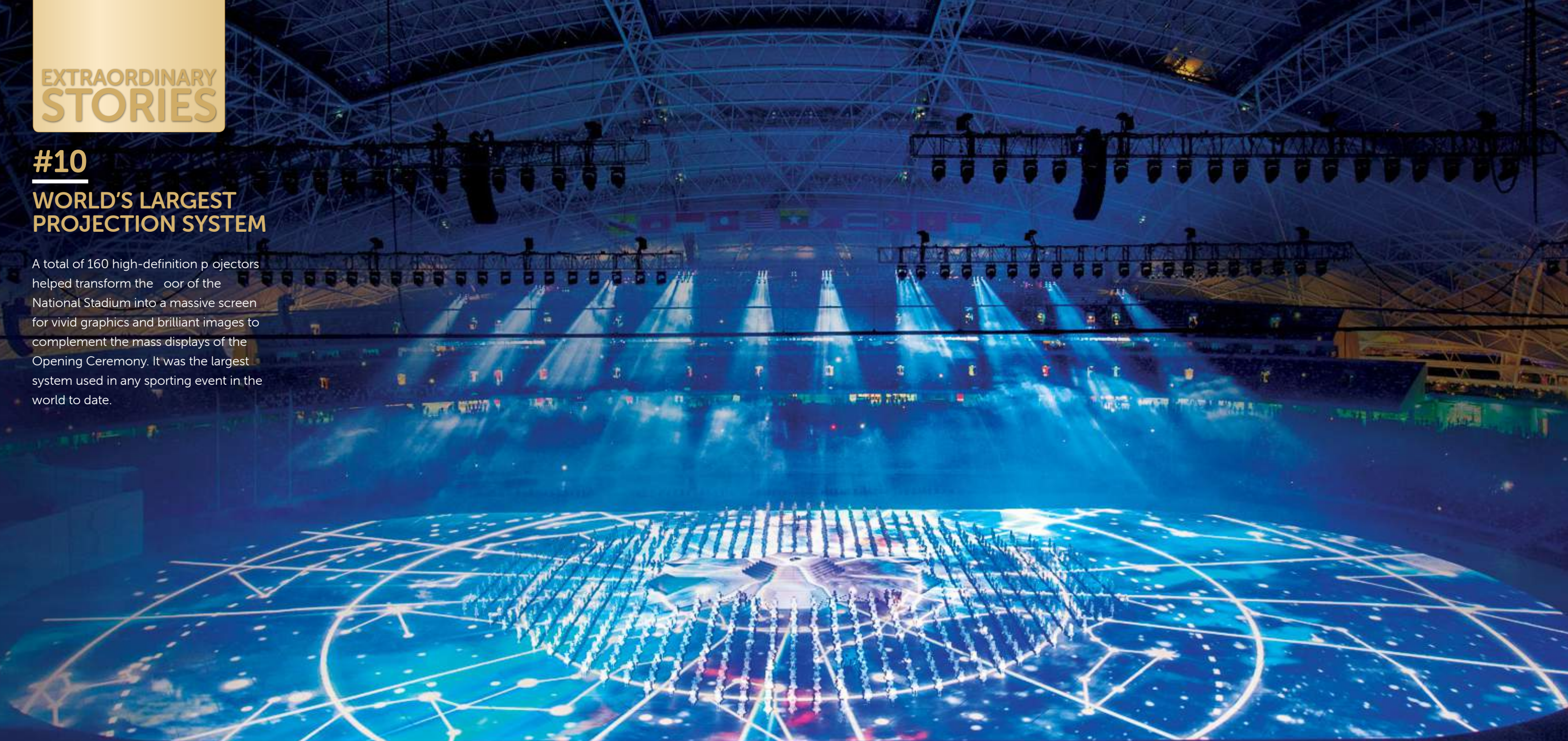
Beatrice believed in the SEA Games wholeheartedly – and this helped motivate her team. “If you believe in something, then your team will believe in it with you,” she remarks. “I’ve always believed that the SEA Games is necessary for Southeast Asia. It is about Southeast Asia and its place in the world as a safe haven for athletes to train, compete, and be amongst friends.”

EXTRAORDINARY STORIES

#10

WORLD'S LARGEST PROJECTION SYSTEM

A total of 160 high-definition projectors helped transform the floor of the National Stadium into a massive screen for vivid graphics and brilliant images to complement the mass displays of the Opening Ceremony. It was the largest system used in any sporting event in the world to date.



SIBLING REVELRY

Having performed together in the Opening Ceremony, fraternal twins Koh Ler Ting and Koh Jin Hao now have one more thing in common – memories from the 28th SEA Games.



Act 1: DNA, a spectacle of blinking lights, mesmerising projections and luminous giant puppets, lasted just eight minutes during the Opening Ceremony.

But it gave Koh Ler Ting and Koh Jin Hao many wonderful shared memories to be treasured for a lifetime.

The twins, both 13, were among the 750 students in the performance. Ler Ting volunteered as a performer after learning that her younger brother would be involved. "I wanted to share this common experience with Jin Hao," the student at Raffle Girls' School says. "Besides, performing in the SEA Games would be a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity."

Recalling the jitters before the performance, Ler Ting says: "We were nervous and quieter than usual, but everyone was also cheering each other on. It was the last time we were going to perform together, and we had to do it well."

To prepare for their performance, the students trained and rehearsed every Saturday for four months. The practices were hard work. But to the young performers, every minute was worth it.

"The audience gasped when our LED costumes lit up. As we went through the steps, I couldn't help but feel a sense of pride," says Jin Hao, a student at Raffles Institution. "At the end, thundering applause resounded through the National Stadium."

The twins' parents were happy to support their kids. "When we heard them sharing excitedly about what they saw and learnt, we knew they were enjoying the experience," says their father, Koh Eng Kah, 46. "We were also heartened to see that they were able to juggle rehearsals, school activities and family commitments well throughout this journey."



FROM ONE ERA TO THE NEXT

Passing the SEA Games torch to his son was like passing the baton to the next generation, says Fandi Ahmad

When Fandi Ahmad was introduced as the final torchbearer during the finale of the Opening Ceremony, the spectators in the National Stadium went wild.

"Fandi! Fandi! Fandi!" chanted the 40,000-strong crowd. "I was so touched," he recalls. "I jumped with joy as I ran. I cried too, as I felt really emotional."



Fandi, 53, completed the final lap of the torch relay with his 17-year-old son, Irfan Fandi. Father and son also lit the SEA Games cauldron together.

"It was the greatest honour for me, even greater than winning or scoring in a cup final" Fandi says. "It was a special moment where I, as an individual, brought our nation together. It was the best moment of my life."

Singapore's favourite football son, Fandi made over 100 appearances and scored 55 goals for his country from 1979 to 1997. He helped the national football team score three silvers and three bronzes in nine SEA Games.

When he was handing the torch to Irfan, Fandi says, it felt like he was passing the baton to the next generation. "I hope my sons will represent our country in football like I did," he adds.

Irfan, who made his SEA Games debut as a striker in Singapore's Under-23 football squad, says: "I will always remember this SEA Games. I made history with my dad."



EXTRAORDINARY STORIES

#11

MOST DIGITAL SEA GAMES EVER

Never before had the SEA Games been experienced on so many digital platforms. Fans from around the region could watch live multi-camera coverage of the competitions using the 28th SEA Games TV app – that's a first in SEA Games history and for any multi-sport competition. Or they could relive the best sporting moments on the SEA Games YouTube channel, which featured 17 sports and the Opening and Closing Ceremonies. The official SEA Game website boasted a social wall where volunteers contributed real-time moments from the Games.



50.8 million
page views and
9.4 million sessions on
SEA Games website



575,000
Facebook
likes



60 million
YouTube views;
1,020 years of
total watch time



350,000
SEA Games TV
and Results app
downloads



61,000
Twitter
followers



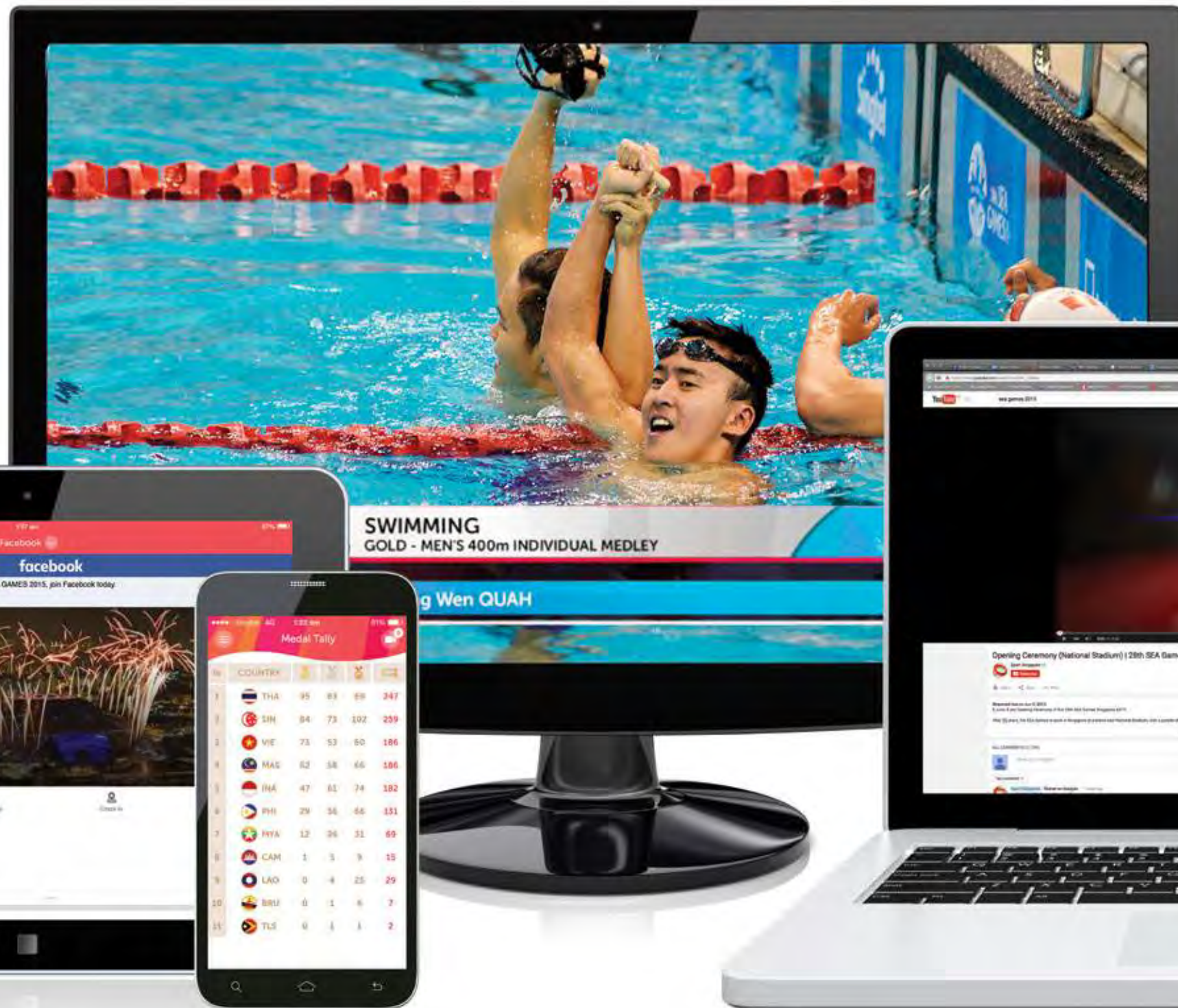
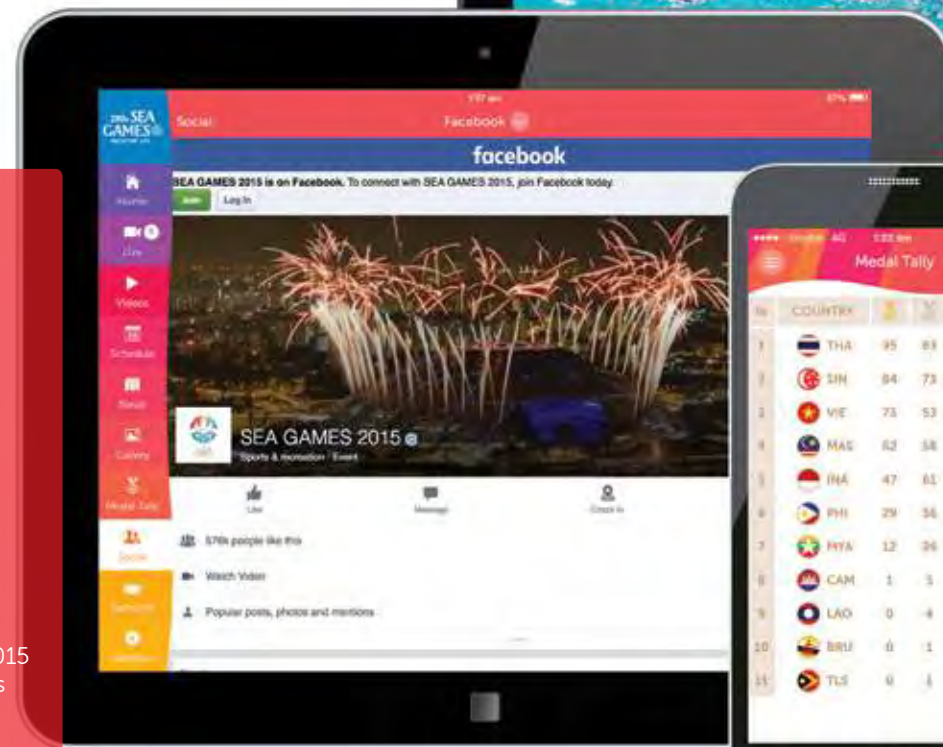
4 million
social walls
visits



15,000
Instagram
followers



2.3 billion
#seagames2015
impressions



#12

MOVING THE GAMES

The 28th SEA Games didn't just move hearts; it moved people too – 8,465 athletes and officials – to be exact. To get participants to and from the venues and airport on time, the organisers used a meticulously planned, integrated system comprising various transport services. These included pre-planned bus services, dedicated and pooled car services, and public transport.

More than
650
chartered buses
and rental cars
ferrying
the athletes
and officials

No. of trips taken

- Cars: 12,583
- Buses: 10,891

No. of bus routes: 881

Arrivals and departures

- Inbound flights: 498
- Inbound buses/cars: 40
- Inbound ferry: 1
- Outbound flights: 516
- Outbound buses/cars: 36
- Total no. of arrivals: 6,110
- Total no. of departures: 6,020



STANDS OF COLOURS

The 28th SEA Games saw more than 500,000 supporters from Singapore and the region packing 31 competition venues to root for their athletes and teams. Again and again, these venues came to life with the spectacle of their support. As night fell over Jalan Besar Stadium during the football match between Singapore and Indonesia on 11 June, we captured these magical moments as fans filled the stand with their national colours.



UNIQUE SEA GAMES SPORTS

The SEA Games owes much of its distinctive regional character to its inclusion of sports that are rooted in Southeast Asian traditions and cultures.

Over the years, traditional, non-Olympic sports from pencak silat and chinlone to vovinam and chapteh have been included in the SEA Games. Not only are these sports perennial favourites of local fans, they are also veritable celebrations of Southeast Asia's common sporting heritage. Here are three niche games played at the 28th SEA Games.



SEPAKTAKRAW

Sepaktakraw is one of the few sports that can undeniably claim a Southeast Asian pedigree. "Sepak" means "kick" in Malay, and "takraw" is the Thai word for the woven rattan ball that was originally used. The game is believed to have been played since at least the 15th century.

The current competition format has its origins in traditional recreational games played around the region – sepak raga (Malaysia), sipa (Philippines), takraw (Thailand), chinlone (Myanmar), kator (Laos) and sepak rago (Indonesia), to name just a few.

In the early 1960s these variations were unified as sepaktakraw with standardised playing rules. Sepaktakraw debuted in the 1965 Southeast Asian Peninsular (SEAP) Games in Kuala Lumpur.

PETANQUE

Petanque traces its heritage to southern France where it was first played in 1907. A national pastime in French-influenced countries like Laos, Cambodia and Vietnam, the game has become more popular across the region over the years. It was first introduced as a competitive sport at the Kuala Lumpur Games in 2001.



TRADITIONAL BOAT RACE (DRAGON BOAT)

The history of traditional dragon boat racing dates back more than two millennia. Born along the banks of the Yangtze River, dragon boat races were part of the celebrations for harvest and religious festivals in southern central China. Today, dragon boat racing is a fast-growing team water sport around the world, especially popular in Asia. The sport made its debut in the 1993 SEA Games in Singapore.





She is one of the most bemedalled Singaporean athletes, having garnered 40 SEA Games gold medals over a 17-year swimming career.



He is a legend in the making who swam to nine golds in nine SEA Games record times at the 28th SEA Games.

CHAMPIONS ARE MADE OF THESE

Singaporean swimming champions Joscelyn Yeo, 36, and Joseph Schooling, 20, are 16 years apart in age. But it is no coincidence that they share the same traits of discipline, grit and resilience – the stuff champions are made of. They are proof that talent may be inborn but greatness is made.

FIRE FROM WITHIN

Joscelyn Yeo still remembers the intense emotions that were sparked in her as she watched the SEA Games live as a 10-year-old in 1989.

“That gave me a glimpse of what it would be like to fight for my country and flag” she says. “It definitely fanned the flames of my desire to represent Singapore well.”

Two years later, she did just that. She bagged two silver and three bronze medals in her SEA Games debut in Manila in 1991. Her early success did not arise simply from her raw talent. Since she was nine, she had maintained a disciplined training routine that would begin at dawn before school even started.

The SEA Games was always special to her, says Joscelyn. “It’s the first step to international competitions and representing Singapore at major games,” she says.

Her most memorable SEA Games was the 1993 edition held in Singapore. “That was when I swam in front of my family, friends, teammates and the nation, who were all behind me and willing me on,” she recalls.

The tremendous home atmosphere helped for sure, and the then 14-year-old thrived under the pressure. She won nine gold medals and one silver, her largest medal haul at a single meet in her career.

Joscelyn went on to train under renowned coaches in Australia, and in the United States at the University of California, Berkeley, and the University of Texas, Austin.



She is so far the only Singaporean to have competed in four Olympic Games; the first was Barcelona in 1992. The three-time Sportswoman of the Year also won two bronze medals for the 100m butterfly at the 1994 and 2002 Asian Games, and collected a total of 40 gold medals at the SEA Games.

Yet, her imprint in Singapore’s sporting annals transcends her medal tally and records.

What this golden girl of the pool has accomplished is to inspire her nation with the possibilities of hard work and determination – the way her predecessors Ang Peng Siong, Patricia Chan and Junie Sng have also done.

“Whether it was the SEA Games or the Olympic Games, I put in 110 percent,” she says. “As a national athlete, you’re always finding ways to get better. It’s not the type of competition that drives you; it’s the fire from within that does.”

WILL STRIVE FOR GOLD AND COUNTRY

At the 2011 SEA Games in Palembang, Joseph Schooling was touched out at the wall by two faster swimmers in the 100m butterfly.

“I really wanted to win that race, but both of them were better than me that day,” he recalls. “No complaints, no excuses. I accepted it and put it behind me.”

Two days later, he bounced back in spectacular fashion, beating the next fastest swimmer in the 200m butterfly final by over three seconds. He clocked new Games and national records for the event. “That was also when I made the ‘A’ qualifying mark for the 2012 London Olympics,” he recalls.

That’s what champions do: They come right back.

“A true champion races with good character. He isn’t a sore loser,” Joseph says. “He picks himself up, trains and swims harder, and doesn’t complain about it.”



Now an undergraduate at the University of Texas in Austin, the 20-year-old trains under American Olympic coach Eddie Reese. He first moved to the US to join Florida’s Bolles School, known as a cradle of Olympic swimmers, in 2009.

These years of training with the world’s best have been paying off. Since his first SEA Games in 2011, where he also clinched the gold for the 50m butterfly in new Games and national records, Joseph has stacked success upon success.

He followed up with six gold medals at the 2013 Naypyidaw SEA Games, a silver in the 100m butterfly at the 2014 Commonwealth Games, and a gold in the 100m butterfly at the 2014 Asian Games.

“People may think I can just breeze through, but there is so much room for error that I can’t take any chances. I’d say all races are just as important and equally as hard,” he says.

“Whether it’s the SEA Games, Olympics or World Championships, I do my best. I can’t slack for one meet and go hard for the next. I’ve got to give 100 percent and make sure I don’t mess up.”

Josephs knows very well that the SEA Games is the meet that Singaporeans look forward to the most. “That’s why it’s special to me. I want to do well for my country,” he says.

And that’s what he did, sweeping nine golds and smashing nine Games records at the 28th SEA Games.

#13

FROM ATHLETES TO ROCK STARS

"If you introduce the athlete like a rock star, the spectators react to a rock star. And when they react to a rock star, the energy just builds," says Mark Richmond, Head of Sport Presentation for the 28th SEA Games.

For the first time ever at the Games, the organisers did just that, using atmospheric lighting, rousing music, eye-popping graphics, mobile platforms and even a little pyrotechnics. There's nothing like dramatic entrances to give athletes a final push or the competition ahead.



EMOTIONAL ANCHORS

We saw them on the sidelines. Their nerves tightened as they watched their charges in play, analysed the action and plotted the next moves. For some coaches, their emotional highs and lows were there for all to see – triumphant fist pumps, knitted brows, and frenetic hand signals. Here are some memorable moments for coaches at the 28th SEA Games.



I'm always thinking about my athletes' safety, and their physical and mental readiness to compete at their best. It keeps me focused on what they need to do. Being overly enthusiastic, uninterested or anxious can adversely affect my athletes' performance. I do what is within my control and let go of what is uncontrollable. That way, it's easier to remain a figure of strength to my athletes.

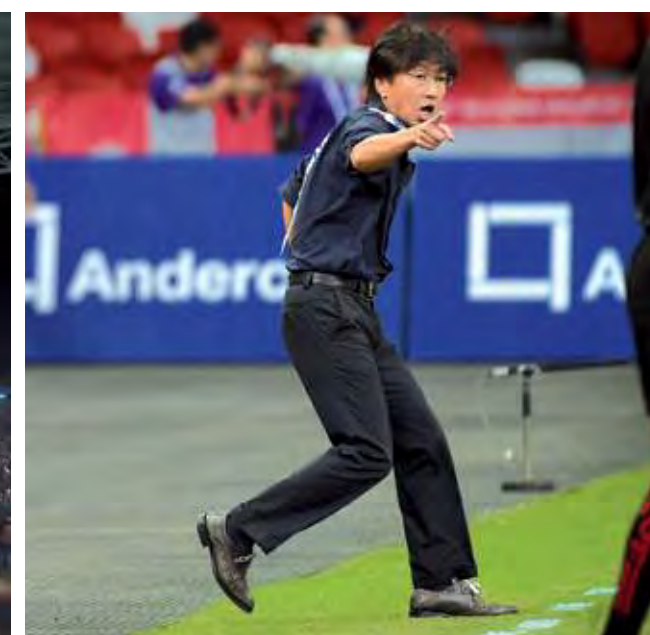
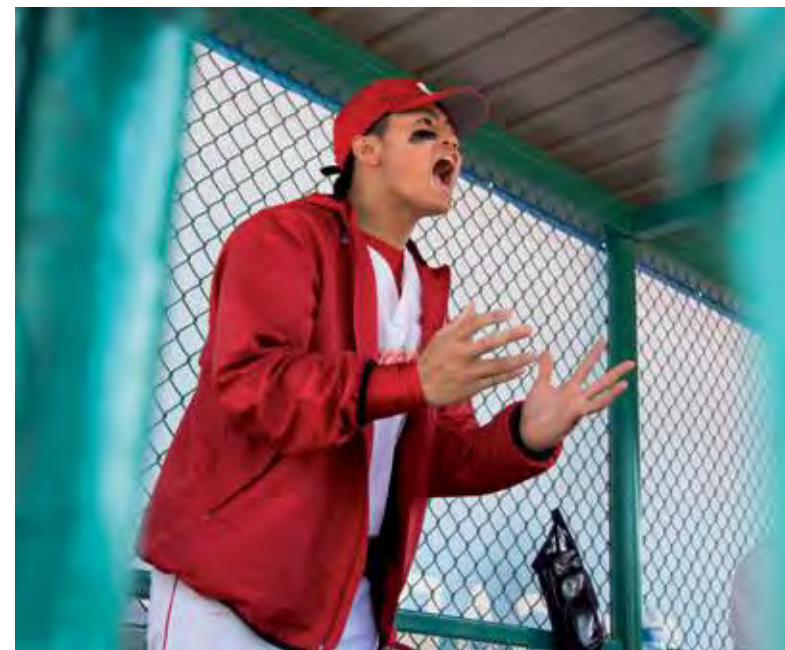
Wong Liang Ming (right),
Singapore taekwondo coach





During competition, I'll feel anxious. That's a good thing because it helps me focus and perform at my peak. I'm always confident because I believe in my team and our game plan. In the final, Thailand held us off until the second half but I stayed positive. We bounced back with lots of attacking and running. My players didn't quit; we worked harder. It felt fantastic to win the gold.

Mohd Nasihin Nubli Ibrahim (left),
Malaysia women's hockey team coach



#14

YOUNG THAI TABLE TENNIS RISING STAR

Thailand ended its 32-year wait for a gold medal in the table tennis singles competition, and it had a 20-year-old athlete to thank. The 107th-ranked Sawettabut Suthasini, who participated in her first SEA Games, delivered a shock win over Singapore's world no. 4 Feng Tianwei and beat Malaysia's Ng Sock Khim to become the women's singles champion.

Before that, Sawettabut and her teammate Tanviriyavechakul Padasak took down Singapore's seeded pair Zhou Yihan and Li Hu in the mixed doubles semi-final, breaking Singapore's dominance in table tennis in the SEA Games.



PODIUM GLORY

Those brief minutes on the podium represented years of sweat, pain and sacrifices for the athletes. Emotions of joy, relief, pride, gratification and more swelled as they stood tall on the podium. Here are some of the most memorable medal moments of the 28th SEA Games, where more than 1,300 medals were won.

Shooting, men's trap team, 11 June.



Wushu, women's optional taijijian, 8 June.



Taekwondo, women's under-57kg, 14 June.



Taekwondo, men's under-74kg, 14 June.



Archery, women's team recurve, 13 June.



Judo, men's 66kg, 6 June.



Sailing, men's team racing laser standard, 14 June.



Silat, men's tanding class A (45–50kg), 14 June.



Rowing, men's eights (1000m), 14 June.



Waterski, mixed wakeboard team, 14 June.



Silat, women's tanding class D (60–65kg), 14 June.

SPORTING ACTION ON TV

The host broadcaster of the 28th SEA Games, MediaCorp, produced more than 700 hours of live sporting action over the two weeks of the Games. It was the largest coverage of a sporting event in Singapore's broadcasting history. Telecast on MediaCorp's free-to-air channels, the sporting action was watched by 3.3 million TV viewers.



BROADCAST OF THE GAMES

- Opening Ceremony, Closing Ceremony and 17 sports produced live
- More than 700 hours of live feeds of 17 sports produced by host broadcaster
- Broadcast of sporting action in 10 Southeast Asian countries (except Timor-Leste)
- Live transmission of host broadcast feeds started from 29 May (first day of football) until the Closing Ceremony (a total of 19 days)
- Two out of three people in Singapore watched the Games on free-to-air television



PERFECTING VICTORY

The pomp and precision of each victory ceremony did not come easy. To ensure that the athletes' moments on the podium were perfect, no details were overlooked. From the poise of the ceremonial team to their make-up, attire and smiles, from raising the correct national flags to playing the correct national anthems, everything was planned rigorously so that it would be done just right.



There was pressure to perfect every single victory ceremony, but it was also a great pleasure to be involved as we could celebrate the joyous moments with the medallists.

— Yeoh Yee Yee,
Victory Ceremonies Venue Manager
at the Singapore Indoor Stadium who oversaw the
victory ceremonies for the table tennis and badminton events.



402
VICTORY
CEREMONIES

1,313
medals
given out

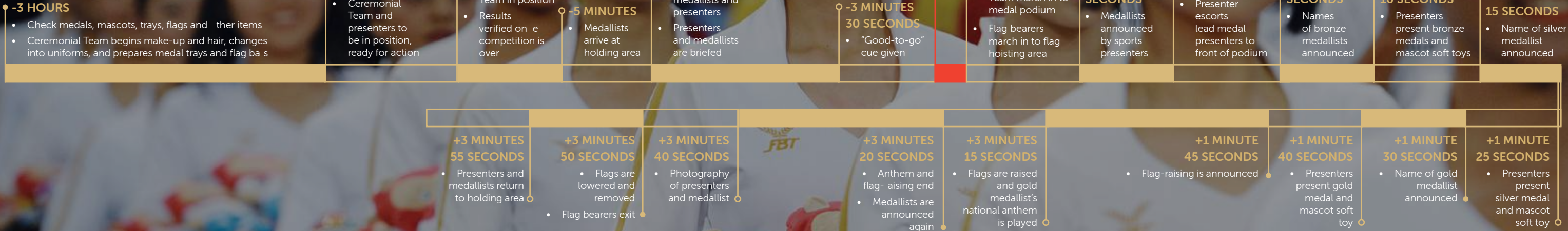
403 gold
401 silver
509 bronze

BY THE MINUTE

Every minute and second leading up to a victory ceremony mattered. Here's what a typical timeline for a victory ceremony looked like.

(- : before Victory Ceremony)
(+ : after Victory Ceremony)

START →



← CONTINUED

EXTRAORDINARY STORIES

#15

ONE EXTRAORDINARY MASCOT – NILA

Nila is courageous, passionate and friendly – everything we'd want in a mascot. He was game to try anything to get fans excited: entertaining them at events, parachuting into the National Stadium, skydiving, waterskiing, spinning decks as a deejay, going on a video game quest, performing skits for school children – you name it, he did it.

Fans sought him out in person for wefies. He even inspired the names of the athletes' lounge (Nila Suite) and the volunteer contingent (Team Nila). Is there anything this tireless cheerleader can't do?

COURAGE. PASSION. FRIENDSHIP



CARNIVAL FUN!


From 31 May to 16 June 2015, some 850,000 visitors and Singaporeans thronged the SEA Games Carnival at the Singapore Sports Hub to partake in its family-friendly festivities. They tried their hands at a variety of games with creative twists, from football pool and zorb bowling to hockey golf and mega boxing. There were also hot-air balloon rides, laser tag battles, and art and craft activities. The little ones had a blast going down giant infl table slides, bouncing on trampolines and scaling rock-climbing walls.



850,000
visited **SEA
GAMES**
Carnival @ Sports Hub

CELEBRATING SPIRIT

In 2015 we saw the very best of the human spirit. Different languages. Different cultures.
Different countries. One shared experience. The 28th SEA Games gave irrefutable proof
that as a region, we are capable of extraordinary feats of selflessness, kindness and heart.
And that, now and always, we are more alike than we are different.

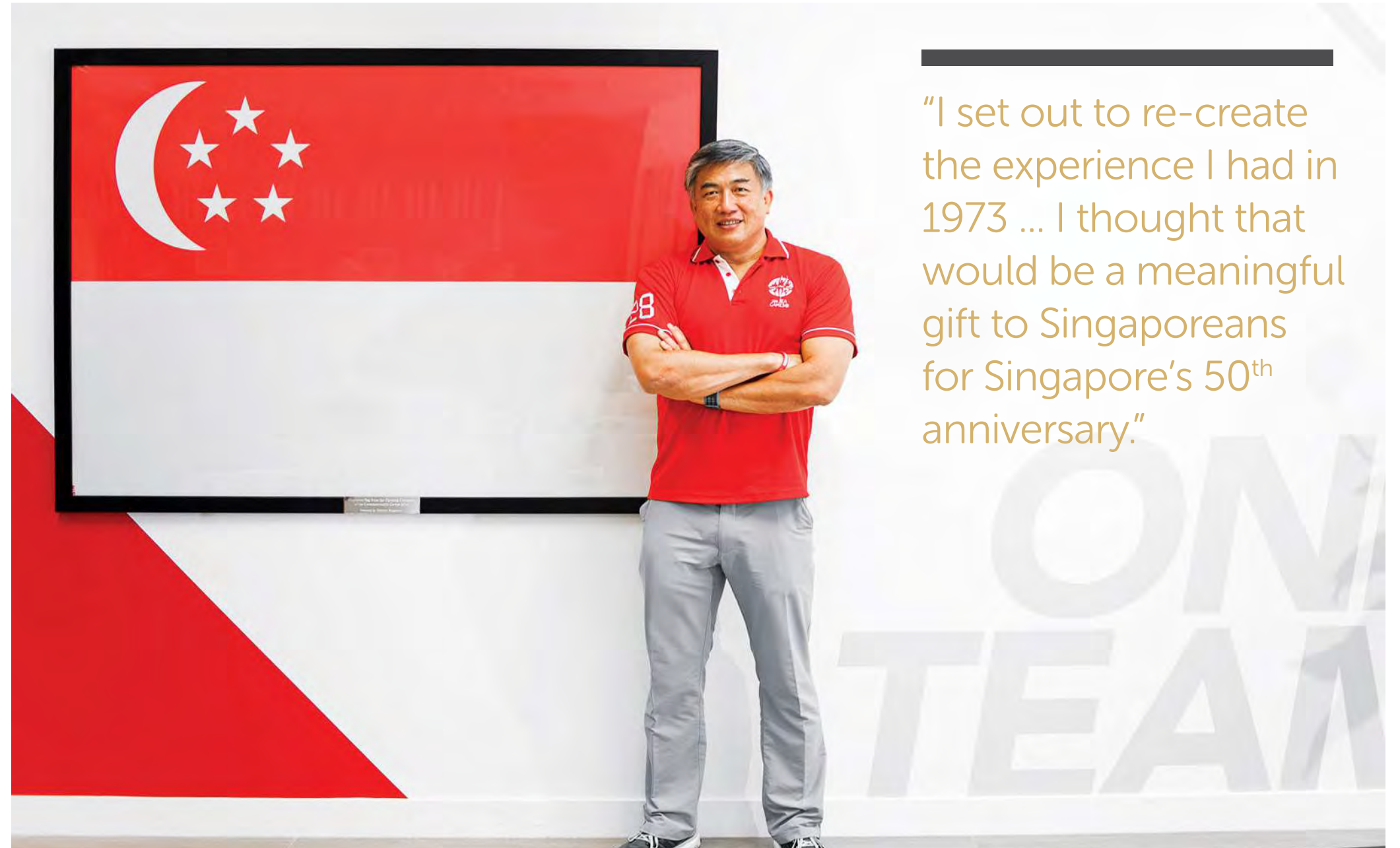


*"All we must do is to truly believe
We have the strength within us
Trust in ourselves
And we're bound to achieve
All that we're meant to do"*

Reach, written by Dick Lee, performed by The MGS Choir featuring Dick Lee

A SEA GAMES TO REMEMBER

Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Singapore SEA Games Organising Committee (SINGSOC) Mr Lim Teck Yin, and SINGSOC team leaders and members, joined hands and hearts with thousands of marvellous volunteers (Team Nila) to put together a Games that Singaporeans and visitors will remember for years to come.



"I set out to re-create the experience I had in 1973 ... I thought that would be a meaningful gift to Singaporeans for Singapore's 50th anniversary."

In 1973 Lim Teck Yin, Chief Executive Officer of Sport Singapore, attended the Southeast Asian Peninsular (SEAP) Games as an 11-year-old spectator.

That year, the SEAP Games, which was the predecessor of the SEA Games, was held in Singapore for the first time ever.

The National Stadium and Toa Payoh Sports Complex had just been built. People had fewer diversions. Singaporeans came out in force to watch the competitions and have a good time. Everything about the Games – the athletic feats, the buzz, the homeground support – captured young Teck Yin’s imagination.

“The memory has stayed with me all these years,” recalls Mr Lim.

Mr Lim went on to compete in the SEA Games as a member of the Singapore national water polo team. From 1985 to 1995, his team took home six consecutive gold medals.

Out of the pool, he enjoyed many more SEA Games editions as a sports fan and an administrator for Singapore Water Polo.

But what has always held a special place in Mr Lim’s heart is that SEAP Games of his boyhood.

“I set out to re-create the experience I had in 1973 for Singaporeans, their families and visitors in 2015,” says Mr Lim, 53, who was Chairman of the Executive Committee of SINGSOC. “I thought that would also be a meaningful gift to Singaporeans for Singapore’s 50th anniversary.”



And indeed, it was. Mr Lim shares how the team and partners created one of the best and most memorable SEA Games ever:

CELEBRATE THE EXTRAORDINARY

We had a theme that resonated with people. They might be involved in different ways – competing, cheering, volunteering or organising – but all had amazing stories to tell. The journey to the Games and the event itself were where they told and celebrated their stories.

FUN DAYS OUT

Singaporeans got into the arenas not just to cheer but to be entertained. Beyond the sporting action that was grouped into three main clusters, we created “carnivals of experiences” around the venues. Families with young children and grandparents, and friends from all walks of life and interests could spend their whole day checking out both the competitions and fringe festivities; there was something for everyone to come out as “One Team Singapore”.

ROUSING ACTION

Our events thrilled spectators with lots of theatrics and show elements such as music, lights and lasers. Even the way we introduced the athletes was something people looked forward to; it inspired the athletes as well.

UNIQUE HOSPITALITY

The athletes were accommodated in hotels in the city, not in a Games village. This way, we created opportunities for Singaporeans to meet them – in the shops, on the streets – and feel the Games’ presence. They were housed by sport and not by country so that they could naturally bond. We set up an athletes’ hospitality suite (Nila Suite) at the Kallang Theatre to let them rest, let their hair down, share a drink or meal, and even do laundry!

LEGACY

We pushed some boundaries like organising the traditional boat races together with the Marina Regatta, and staging community runs and swims in conjunction with the marathon and triathlon. We reached out to new audiences through digital platforms. Our legacy is in inspiring Singaporeans and Southeast Asians to look forward to future editions with enthusiasm and a sense of promise.



THE GO-TO TEAM

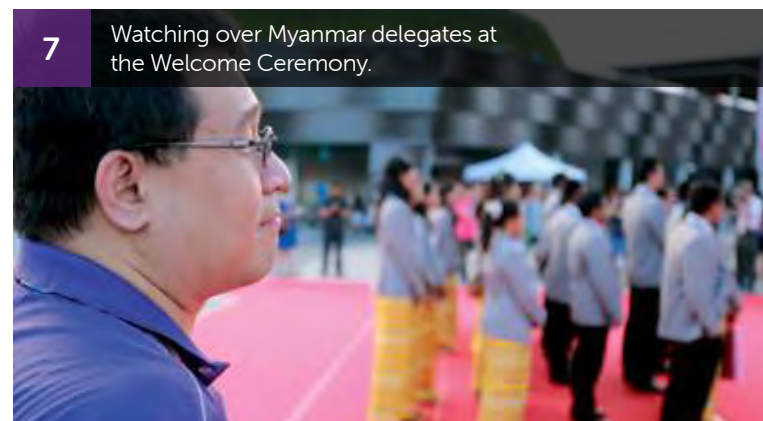
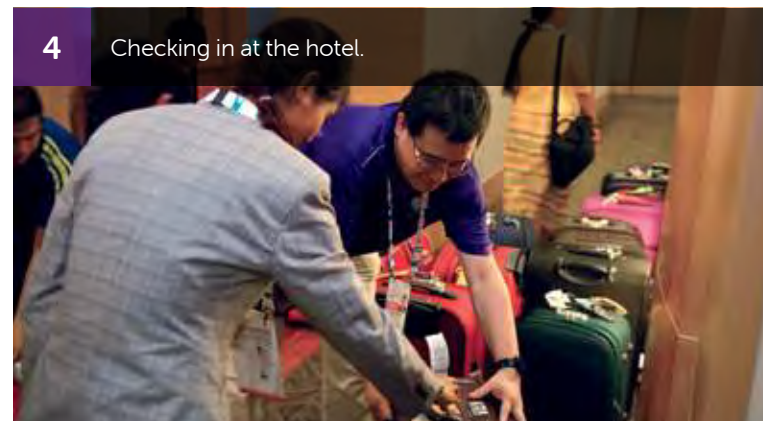
John Yung-Kiat Chia and his team of National Olympic Committee (NOC) Assistants were among the 315 liaison officers and assistants who provided support to visiting athletes and delegates.

Attached to the Myanmar delegation, they sorted out transport, meals and accommodation arrangements, and met the delegates' every request so they could have the best experience at the Games. "Sometimes it was tiring but we were always raring to go the next morning," says John. A few of his teammates were Singaporeans of Burmese heritage, and Burmese studying or working here. "The moment they started to speak to the athletes and delegates in their own language, you could see the tension just melting away," he says.

"It was an extraordinary journey made together with my teammates, who went beyond the call of duty to make the Myanmar contingent comfortable and feel at home," says John. "Friendships within the team and with the Myanmar delegates have blossomed from the experience."

Here's a glimpse of a day for John and his team.

315 Liaison Officers & Assistants



#16

BLOOD. SWEAT. TEARS.

The pain from the cut between his toes stung. His foot bled. But Muhammad Nur Alfian Uma'en, 18, shrugged off these complications and fought on.

He beat the world champion, Vietnam's Tran Dinh Nam, 5-0 to claim the tanding Class F gold, Singapore's only gold medal for pencak silat at the 28th SEA Games, on 14 June. Success tasted all the more sweeter because he didn't let unexpected obstacles get the better of him. His emotional outburst on the podium was one of the most endearing images of the Games.



EXTRAORDINARY STORIES

#17

DOING IT RIGHT, OR NOT DOING AT ALL

Singapore marathoner Ashley Liew had no medal to show for after finishing eighth in the race on 7 June. Yet the world showered him with accolades – for his excellent sportsmanship.

Ashley, 28, was leading the 12-strong field when he realised his rivals had taken the wrong route. He then slowed down to a crawl so they could catch up.

“I would not have felt comfortable taking advantage of the situation as I am a big fan of sportsmanship,” he said.



EXTRAORDINARY STORIES

#18

TAKING ON GIANTS

At only 10, Myanmar swimmer Oo Shun Lei Maw was the youngest in the competition pool. Swimming against rivals older and bigger than her, she finished bottom in her events. But no matter. She won hearts with her pluck. "No, it's not overwhelming. I am used to it," said Lei Maw, who travelled to the 28th SEA Games without her parents.

Still, she has shown that she is one to watch. At the Singapura Finance SNAG Swim Junior Championships in early 2015, she placed first in the events for her age group.



EXTRAORDINARY STORIES

#19

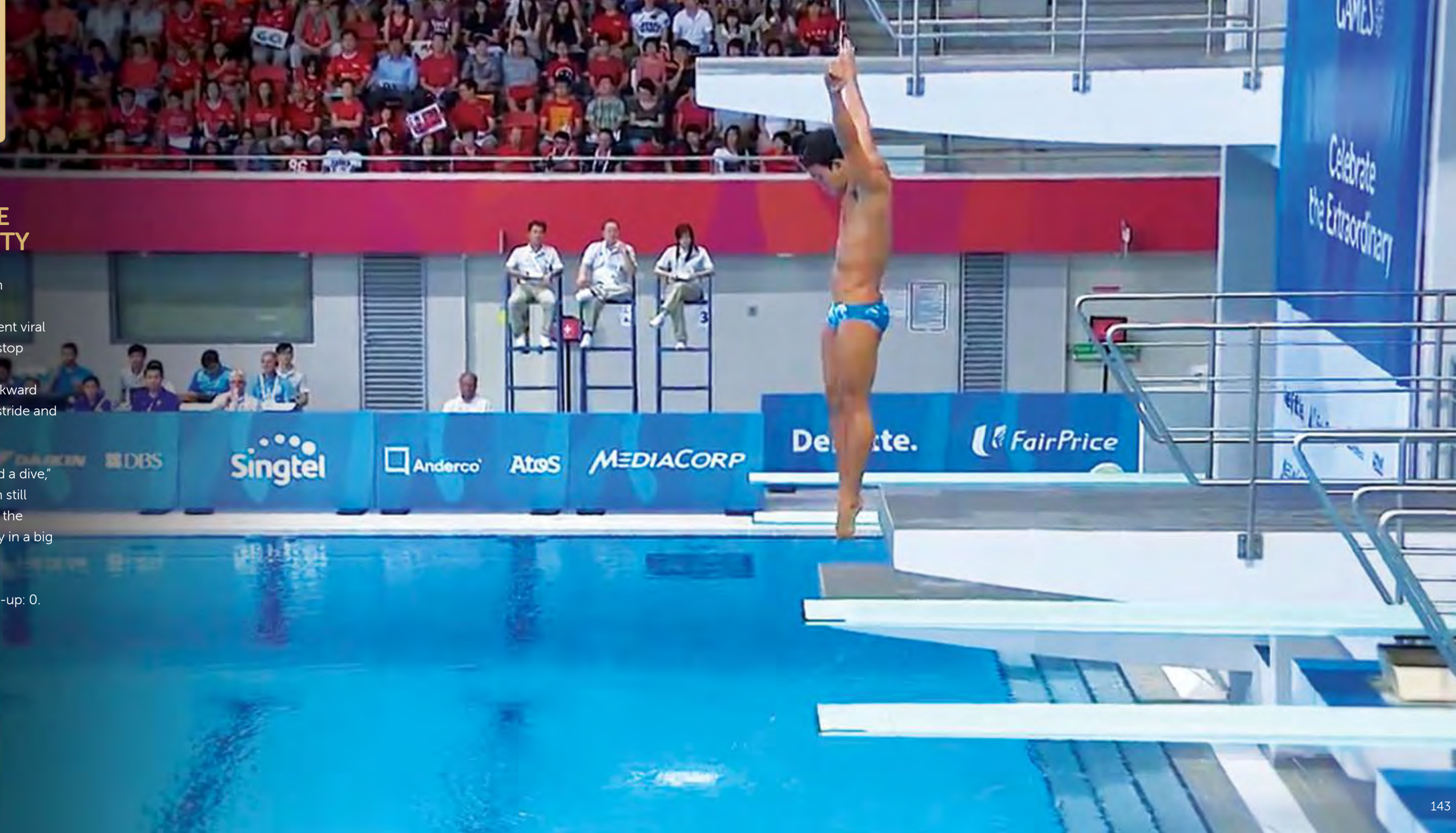
LAUGHING IN THE FACE OF ADVERSITY

He botched up his dive in the 3m springboard final on 7 June so spectacularly that a video of it went viral on the Internet. But that did not stop Filipino John David Pahoyo, 17, from bouncing back from his awkward landing – by taking things in his stride and laughing along.

“This was not the first time I failed a dive,” he posted on his Facebook. “I am still proud because not all of us have the privilege to represent our country in a big sporting event like this.”

The final score? Bravery: 1. Botch-up: 0.

Still image captured from video by SINGSOC



#20

WE ARE ONE

They might have been on opposing teams, but camaraderie, mutual respect and friendship emerged as the true winner when Brunei faced Malaysia in the netball semi-final on 6 June. Despite the decisive score of 79-23 in Malaysia's favour, players from both teams gathered on the court in a poignant huddle and final joint cheer. At that point, the score became secondary. It was the solidarity and unity between regional neighbours that came into the spotlight, creating a moment that truly captured what the SEA Games was all about.





The 28th SEA Games was a time to celebrate – and a time to give. Proceeds from the sale of SEA Games collectibles were donated to various local welfare organisations, including the Movement for the Intellectually Disabled of Singapore (MINDS), to support their programmes and beneficiaries

Mohd Rozlan Bin Sohani never expected he could share his art through the most important sport event in the region.

He was one of the three trainees of the Movement for the Intellectually Disabled of Singapore (MINDS) selected to create acrylic paintings of Nila, the SEA Games mascot that represents courage, passion and friendship.

Mohd Rozlan was the right man for the job. As an active member of MINDS Craft, a “supported employment” project of MINDS, he had honed his art skills working on intricate 3D sculptures and metal tooling works.

The MINDS trainees painted the Nila paintings by hand, so no two paintings were exactly the same. This made them extra special as collectibles of the SEA Games. They were retailed, along with other SEA Games merchandise, in stores in Singapore’s main shopping areas.

For each painting sold, MINDS received \$10 in support of its programmes and activities. The organisation runs education and employment initiatives for about 2,300 persons with intellectual disability.

“Painting is therapeutic for our trainees,” says Leroy Lee, Manager of Social Enterprises at MINDS. “They enjoy being engaged in a craft that requires focus.”

More importantly, Leroy adds, the project gave the trainees the opportunity to contribute to society and be included in a significant regional event. “Our trainees were especially happy when we told them that their art had been bought,” he says.

“We were delighted that they could celebrate the Games in their own ways. Their families were proud of them too.”



COLLECTIBLES WITH A HEART



Mugs, t-shirts and tote bags. Gel bracelets, key chains and collar pins. With over 100 merchandise items available, there was something for every local and visitor to take home from the 28th SEA Games. But with every item snapped up, we also gave back to the less privileged in the community.

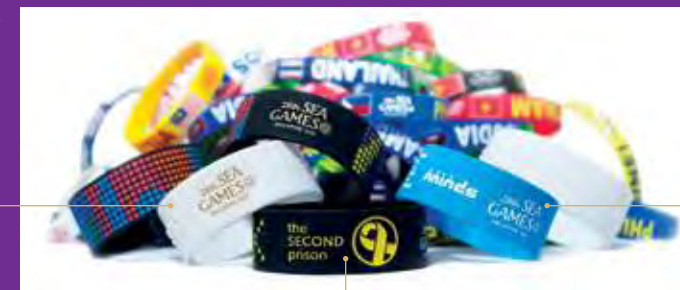
Besides the Movement for the Intellectually Disabled of Singapore (MINDS), a portion of the proceeds from merchandise sales also went to various Singapore-based welfare organisations such as the Singapore Association of the Visually Handicapped (SAVH), Singapore Corporation of Rehabilitative Enterprises (SCORE), SportCares Foundation and Straits Times School Pocket Money Fund (SPMF). It was just another way the 28th SEA Games brought people together in the spirit of friendship and giving.

**More than 250,000
pieces of Games
merchandise sold**

CELEBRATE THE EXTRAORDINARY

Braille Gel Bracelet

Singapore Association of the Visually Handicapped (SAVH), which helps the visually impaired gain new skills and self-reliance, received \$1 from each sale.



UNLOCK

Gel Bracelet

Each bracelet sold yielded \$1 for the Yellow Ribbon Fund run by Singapore Corporation of Rehabilitative Enterprises (SCORE). The fund supports a variety of rehabilitation and reintegration programmes for ex-offenders.

I'MPOSSIBLE

Gel Bracelet

The tagline is "I'mpossible", reworded from "impossible", to encourage MINDS trainees to achieve more with the right spirit. MINDS received \$1 from each sale.



NILA

Tote bags

MINDS trainees received a salary for silk-screen-printing the tote bags, and \$1 from each sale was donated to MINDS.



NILA

Acrylic Painting

For each hand-painted work sold, \$10 was donated to MINDS.

TORCH UP!

The 28th SEA Games wasn't just a games for athletes and fans; the community celebrated the Games in a big way too. As part of the SEA Games Torch Up! programme, various communities in Singapore collaborated with artists and designers to create 30 art installations inspired by the Games and sports. These structures were unveiled across the host nation in Orchard Road, Bras Basah, Marina Bay and the Sports Hub.

The initiative's programmes included a special mass run that saw ordinary Singaporeans joining the Games torch relay. Called "The Extraordinary Run", it took runners on a route past all 30 structures the day before the Games and culminated in the final lighting of the Games torch on 5 June.



JOURNEYS

Collaboration between artist Vellachi Ganesan and students of Temasek Junior College (TJC)

The 50 bird sculptures of **Journeys** symbolise dreams taking flight. Engraved on them are the aspirations of TJC students, who drew on their grandparents' life stories to reflect upon their future. Journeys aims to inspire the community to contemplate the past and aspire towards the future.

MORE THAN
150,000
INVOLVED IN
TORCH UP
PROJECTS



METAMORPHOSIS (left)

Collaboration between artist Khor Tuck Kuan and residents of Teen Challenge Drugs and Alcohol Rehabilitation Centre

Metamorphosis depicts the journey towards victory: No matter what obstacles and challenges lie ahead, athletes – or anyone for that matter – will be able to conquer them with perseverance and a positive mindset.



FUTURE YOUTH ABOUND (left)

Collaboration between artists Florence Ng and Dawn Tam, and students from My First Skool and CHIJ St Nicholas Girls' School

A sculpture of an energetic youth leaping forward, **Future Youth Abound** celebrates the future held in the hands of young people. The youth's head, resembling a globe, is made up of paintings by the students. Kinetic figures holding flags celebrate teamwork and the partnerships between neighbouring countries.

DREAMS (right)

Collaboration between artist Kenneth Lee and students of MINDS – Lee Kong Chian Gardens School

Look at **Dreams** and you may think you are looking at the night sky. MINDS students expressed their dreams and hopes in an art session with the artist, who then translated the aspirations into the constellations of dots on the sculpture.



OUR LAKE OF IMAGINATION (right)

Collaboration between Ketemu (Indonesia) and Brack (Singapore), and Grade 5 students from Kintamani in Bali, Indonesia

Our Lake of Imagination celebrates the life and nature around Bali's Lake Batur with playful and imaginative elements. The artists crafted the installation's sphere using water hyacinths that the students had collected from the lake and decorated it with windmills made of dried palm leaves traditionally used in Hindu-Balinese rituals. The sphere holds a zoetrope featuring an animation of the students, which can be activated by pedal power from the bicycle.



#21

CHASING GOLD WITH DETERMINATION

Mention taekwondo and most won't think of Timor-Leste. But 24-year-old Luisa dos Santos Rosa (left in photo) is going to change that. At the 28th SEA Games, she claimed the silver in the women's Under-49kg event. Hardly any discredit to her country, Luisa was overcome only by Thailand's Chanatip Sonkham, the more experienced world and Asian Games champion, and a bronze medallist in the London Olympics in 2012.

Though she hails from a smaller country, Luisa has not let her circumstances impede her. Having won two bronzes and now a silver at the SEA Games, she chases her dream of a gold medal with perseverance and grit. She said: "One day I am going to win a gold medal and make my country proud."



EXTRAORDINARY STORIES

#22

DOING THEIR UTMOST FOR COUNTRY

It was Cambodia's first foray into the chinlone-linking event in the sepaktakraw competition. "We thought we'd just give it a try and do our best," said Sokphearom Ream, one of the players. The team's utmost effort more than made up for the lack of experience. The Cambodians defeated Laos 308-299 and took home the country's first-ever gold in the chinlone-linking event. It was also Cambodia's only gold medal at the 28th SEA Games.



#23

CLOCKING PERSONAL BEST

It didn't matter that he was running against faster and stronger opponents. Bruneian sprinter Mohd Fakhri Ismail (first from left in photo) came to the 28th SEA Games to outdo himself. And he did just that, with a time of 10.59 seconds in the 100m heats. He broke Brunei's national record – set previously by himself – and qualified for the final.

Mohd Fakhri placed 8th in the final race, but he triumphed otherwise – uniting Bruneians in the hope for an athletics medal.



EXTRAORDINARY STORIES

#24

NO GOLD TOO HIGH

Maria Natalia Londa, 24, has a dream to put Indonesia on the Olympics map. But first, she did her nation proud at the 28th SEA Games: by leaping to a gold in the women's long jump final with a personal best of 6.70m. Maria began her track and field journey at age 10. Even when ill, she trained, her coach said. A fine example of determination and unwavering vision, she is a beacon of hope for Indonesia's aspiring athletes.



PILLARS OF THEIR STRENGTH

Parents are often the unsung heroes behind successful young athletes – and the folks of Kimberly and Jonathan Chan are no exception. Their constant support gives strength to the two Singaporean national divers, who delivered their best performances to date at the 28th SEA Games.

Foo Yan Nuen and Kenneth Chan have been the constant pillars in the sporting journeys of their children Kimberly and Jonathan, who are both divers in Team Singapore.

The Chans schedule their lives around their children's training and competitions. They tirelessly pick them up from training sessions six days a week. They plan their business trips such that at least one parent is available to do so.

Longer getaways are now rare, as the children's training camps coincide with the year-end school holidays. Instead, the family squeeze in some sightseeing when they tag along with the children to overseas competitions.

The parents have also created a positive motivational climate. "We don't need them to score straight As and do well in their sports at the same time," remarks Yan Nuen, 50. "They just have to try their best."

These realistic expectations take much pressure off the divers, allowing them to set and work towards their own goals. But if the athletes ever waver on their chosen path, their parents are the first ones to help them sort it out. "I'll remind them: You've come so far and invested all this time; what is the goal you're gunning for?" says Yan Nuen.

The upshot of the Chans' consistent support and gentle prodding? The divers' best performance to date at the 28th SEA Games. Jonathan, 18, clinched a bronze medal in the men's 10m platform event, while Kimberly, 21, finished fourth in the women's 10m platform event.

"No matter what choices we make, our parents will support us," says Jonathan. "It feels great to have them always behind us."





WE CAN OVERCOME ANYTHING

They were no ordinary Volunteer Photographers. Edwin Koh was diagnosed with spinocerebellar atrophy in his twenties. Jonathan Neo lost his hearing when he was six. These limitations did not stop them from pursuing picture-perfect moments at the Games.

EDWIN KOH, 36



I was diagnosed with spinocerebellar atrophy in my early twenties. The part of my brain controlling body coordination has weakened over time, and movement has become more difficult.

I first picked up a film camera when I was 10. It belonged to my father. Then, about six years ago, I began photography as a hobby. Now, I'm learning action photography. In sport photography, we study and research the sport, and observe carefully how the players behave. Capturing a perfect moment of motion is fulfilling; I'll feel great for the rest of the day.

We were prepared for the long hours at the 28th SEA Games. We committed to seven days of photography, so I took leave from work. I chose to cover volleyball, netball, fencing, basketball and cue sports.

To overcome my limitations, I think creatively.

I shot the spectators cheering and the athletes' emotions. These are important in sport photography too. Most of our shooting positions during the Games were at the ground level, on the field of play. When I needed to shoot from a higher level, I took the lift — this was a little restrictive, but it did the job.

Photography is my number one passion. My physical condition does affect my passion, but I believe there will always be different limitations to whatever we want to do. I would like to be a professional photographer one day.

My advice for people who wish to overcome their disabilities? Think creatively. We can overcome anything if we find ways around our limitations.

JONATHAN NEO, 32



Volunteering at the Games was an honour. I could contribute to a momentous occasion and utilise my photography skills. But the best part was witnessing Team Singapore’s extraordinary performance. The team made history.

I was inspired by the volunteers at the Dea ympics in Taiwan. They were dedicated, cheerful and patient. When I heard that Singapore was hosting the 28th SEA Games, I was eager to bring that same spirit as a volunteer.

I enjoyed the challenges of photographing for the Games. There were tight deadlines. My body also ached from holding the camera and sitting still for long hours when I shot the table tennis and badminton matches. But these were good experiences.

The athletes’ expressions were memorable. There is a wide range of emotions in sports, from the athletes’ elation when they are basking in victory to their anguish when they don’t win. Photographers look out for these dramatic moments.

Many at the Games left an impact on me. They included my Volunteer Photographers Team at the Singapore Indoor Stadium and fellow Team Nila volunteers. They showed me what hard work and commitment are about! It’s important to be passionate about what you do. That way, life is meaningful and fulfilling



#25

REMEMBERING SABAH QUAKE VICTIMS

A 6.0-magnitude earthquake hit Sabah on 5 June, the day the Games opened. Ten Singaporeans – seven Tanjong Katong Primary School students, two teachers and an adventure guide – lost their lives on Mount Kinabalu.

On 8 June, the Day of Remembrance declared by the Singapore Government, a minute of silence was observed at all competitions by all teams. Team Singapore athletes also dedicated their wins to the victims and paid their tributes at the school.

“It is not the mountain we conquer but ourselves,” wrote the students and teachers on their blog before the earthquake struck. The victims’ spirit of endeavour, teamwork and friendship – the very qualities celebrated in the Games – will continue to be remembered and honoured.



#26

CHAMPION CHEERLEADER

It was hard not to notice Bancha “Mr Thailand” Khamthong in his eye-catching Thai costume and headgear. He danced, twirled his oil-paper umbrella and entertained with his antics. Not only did he bring smiles to faces in the stands, he also rallied his fellow countrymen’s support for their athletes.

The 49-year-old has cheered Thai athletes on at various multisport events around the world since 1995. He said: “To be there when Thailand wins is always a great feeling.”



During the victory ceremony for the women's 4 x 200m freestyle relay at the OCBC Aquatic Centre on 8 June, Singapore's national anthem stopped playing as the nation's flag was being raised.

Yet that didn't mar the Singapore team's golden moment. Without missing a beat, the spectators picked up from where the public address system had left off. The live version – the nation's pride in song – couldn't have been more heartfelt.



#28

NOTHING LEFT BEHIND BUT GOODWILL

Fans from around the region did their part to keep the venues litter-free. After competitions they helped to pick up trash and dispose of it properly. It was the simplest of all acts, but also one of the most endearing gestures of friendship and goodwill during the Games. Kudos to all!



FROM STRANGERS TO FRIENDS

The 28th SEA Games wouldn't have been a success without staff, volunteers and vendors pulling together as one united team. Along the way, strong bonds were formed; some even blossomed into friendships.

MAJ Lekshmanan Prakash, 34, a staff member at Headquarters Singapore Artillery in the Singapore Armed Forces (SAF), was a member of the Cauldron Task Force for the 28th SEA Games. Albert Ang, 44, is Manager, Project Management, at Kingsmen Exhibits, the company that built the cauldron. As their teams worked hand in hand to get the cauldron ready for the Opening Ceremony, the two men also forged a rapport that developed into friendship.

Lekshmanan

"Albert is a friendly guy and great person to work with. We understood what each other wanted and what we needed to do. When demands got overwhelming, we helped each other to get the job done.

We could test the cauldron only after hours, since we had to keep things secret before the Opening Ceremony. When things didn't go as planned, we sorted them out together, often till as late as 4am. That's when we got to know each other better too."

Albert

"Lex is from SAF and I was his vendor. But when we were working on the cauldron, it didn't matter where we came from. Our goal was one and the same: we wanted the cauldron to light up successfully during the Opening Ceremony right through the Closing Ceremony. That's why we worked well together and understood both our responsibilities.

Like me, Lex has a passion for getting things done. Even for the little things, like carrying barricades and ensuring everyone's safety – these were part of the contractor's job – he would take it upon himself to help out. No goal is unreachable if we put our heart and soul into achieving it, and teamwork was what pulled us through."





Gina Tan, Executive (Community Engagement), 24, and Ashley Ling, Senior Executive (Community Engagement), 32, are teammates in Sport Singapore. They first met when Gina joined the team in 2014 and hit it off right away. Their friendship deepened as they immersed themselves in work to engage with the public, garnering interest for the 28th SEA Games.

Ashley

"When I met Gina, the first thing I noticed was her bubbly, friendly and helpful personality. She always gives her best and doesn't ever complain about being tired.

She is usually the first to show concern towards her colleagues. Last year, I suffered a really bad bout of stomach flu – it was the afternoon before the party to mark the one-year countdown to the 28th SEA Games. I couldn't even drag myself out of bed. Gina quickly cabbled over to my place with medication before reporting for work."

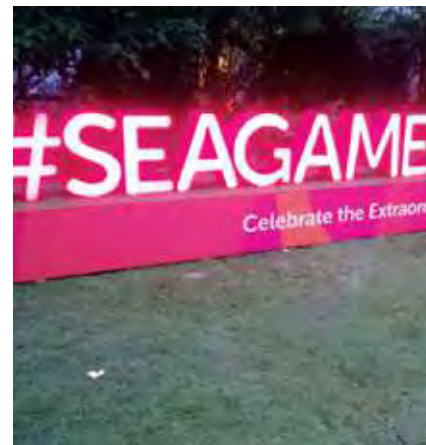
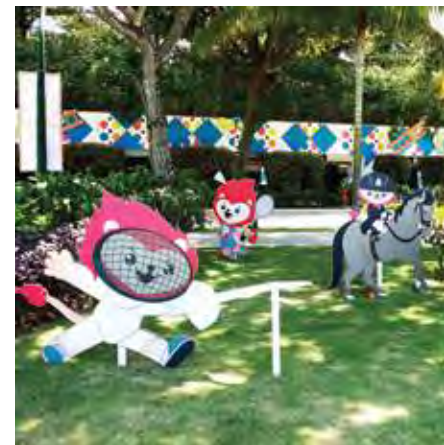
Gina

"Ashley is my buddy at work. She's always guiding me, lending a hand and putting others before herself. We look out for each other and have each other's back.

We like to kid around, but we don't get offended. She's slim and I'm just the opposite. She says she 'loves my fats'. People who love you for who you are, are worth keeping as friends, isn't it? Some people just make me talk a little more, smile a little happier, laugh a little louder, and live a little better. Ashley is one of them."

ALL DRESSED UP

Public buildings and spaces were bedecked with banners and markers in the distinctive colour scheme of the 28th SEA Games. Cut-outs and images of the joyous Games mascot Nila jazzed up streets and places too. All these and more in Singapore's city area to drum up excitement for the Games, usher in the festivities and welcome the region's athletes.





TILL NEXT TIME

At the Closing Ceremony on 16 June, tributes were paid and the SEA Games Federation flag was handed over to Malaysia. A parade of boats bearing Singapore's iconic stamp designs sailed through the National Stadium, and the night closed with a dance party with music spun by deejay Ferry Corsten. The cauldron flame will be lit again in Kuala Lumpur in 2017; for now, till next time, the friendships and memories of the 28th SEA Games will live on.









THE TEAM BEHIND THE GAME PLAN

The Steering Committee of the 28th SEA Games, led by Chairman Mr Lawrence Wong, Minister for Culture, Community and Youth, was the team behind an extraordinary 28th SEA Games. It was supported by three Advisory Sub-Committees for National Olympic Committee and Sport; Community Engagement and Outreach; and Sponsorship and Marketing. Each team member brought to the field his or her valuable expertise and unique perspective. Under their direction, the SEA Games Executive Committee chaired by Sport Singapore CEO Lim Teck Yin organised a successful and memorable Games.

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Systems | Ninebot Asia | Old Chang Kee | OSIM International | Radius Design & Construction
SAFRA National Service Association | Seven Seas Sportflex | himano | Showtec Communications
Sin Chew Woodpaq | Singapore Food Industries | Singapore GP | SingHealth | SportPsych Consulting
Stamford Catering Services | Starcom MediaVest Group | Tai Sun (Lim Kee) Food Ind | The Tanglin Club
Tiger Balm Active | Trishaw Uncle | TTG Asia Media | Tube Marketing | UE Power & Resources | Wiraka | Yoguru

HOW THIS BOOK WAS MADE

This commemorative book comes with a jacket that is wholly unique, made out of a PVC banner used during the 28th SEA Games.



① Banners were collected after the Games.



② The banners were trimmed to size.



③ The banners were then sorted and cleaned.



④ The banner pieces were folded and wrapped around the books as jackets.



