

PRESS RELEASE

A \$200,000 Boost to Develop the Next Generation of Joseph Schoolings for Singapore Swimming Association

SSA to set up an independent committee tasked to best utilise the funds to benefit the development of the sport

SINGAPORE, 7 DECEMBER 2016 – Joseph Schooling swam the race that stopped the nation, accomplishing a feat that no Singaporean has done before – winning a Gold medal at the Rio Olympics 2016 for the 100m Butterfly. And today, the swimmer and his family made a commitment to helping Singapore continue that Olympic dream and success, with the donation of \$200,000 to the Singapore Swimming Association (SSA) to support athlete development for the next generation of Joseph Schoolings to come.

Aside from being a historic milestone, the win has raised the profile of swimming in Singapore to an unprecedented level. More than ever, young athletes, coaches and the wider aquatic eco-system have the confidence that the country is able to produce Olympic champions and stand shoulder to shoulder with sporting giants.



Colin and May Schooling presenting a cheque to Singapore Swimming Association President, Mr Lee Kok Choy at the OCBC Aquatic Centre



For Joseph's historic gold-medal achievement at the Rio Olympic Games, the Schoolings have given twenty percent of the \$1 million awarded to him as part of the Singapore National Olympic Council's (SNOC) multi-million dollar awards programme (MAP) to the SSA. The Schoolings hope that this donation to the Association will be specifically set aside for athlete development, helping identify, groom and train the next swimming Olympic champions for the country.

May Schooling, mother of Joseph Schooling, said, "My family and I are honoured to have the opportunity to give back to the association, and have Joseph leave a legacy for aspiring athletes. We believe that the money donated will benefit the fraternity. We hope that this will be a form of inspiration and encouragement for our local athletes to excel in the sport and achieve great results for our nation."

The \$200,000 donated by the Schoolings will be channelled towards the association's efforts in developing the sport, which includes strengthening the high performance infrastructure for athletes and developing services and programmes that help nurture aspiring elite athletes.

Speaking at the cheque presentation ceremony, Singapore Swimming Association President, Mr Lee Kok Choy said, "The amount donated by the Schoolings is unprecedented and will help in the development of the sport, from long-term athlete development to enhancing the standard of coaching. We appreciate the Schooling's support, and will have regular meetings with them to account for their donation.

"We strive to achieve our Vision 2020 goals, and expect to see continued growth and success in Singapore swimming. As we grow in our achievements, and further enhance funding through the MAP awards, the transparency of funding remains of utmost importance. Moving forward, we will form an independent committee, which will include our SSA Treasurer and Secretary General, to ensure that funds are utilised most fruitfully to the benefit of the sport."

-END-

ABOUT SINGAPORE SWIMMING ASSOCIATION

The Singapore Swimming Association (SSA) is the National Sports Association governing aquatic sports in Singapore. These include five key disciplines – diving, open water swimming, swimming, synchronised swimming and water polo. As the national governing body, SSA spearheads its vision of developing the Republic to become a leader in aquatic sports – regionally as well as globally. Closer to home, SSA collaborates with various affiliate clubs and stakeholders, to proactively nurture a greater depth of local talent through various outreach efforts and programmes.

For media enquiries, please contact:

Yong Shi Yun
Weber Shandwick
+65 9644 4939
Syong@webershandwick.com

Nur Fahimah Bte Kadir Mohidin
Weber Shandwick
+65 9727 0535
Nurfahimah@webershandwick.com

Vivien Tan
Weber Shandwick
+65 9680 8131
Vtan2@webershandwick.com