



PRESS RELEASE

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Four Local Umpires Make the Grade

FairPrice Foundation Nations Cup 2011: December 5-11, Toa Payoh Sports Hall

Netball Singapore was elated to receive notification from the International Federation of Netball Associations (IFNA) that four of the eight umpires appointed for the FairPrice Foundation Nations Cup 2011 were from Singapore.

Chris Burton, Netball Australia and the Asian Region Umpiring Director, and Chair of the Umpire Appointments Panel for Nations Cup commented, "It has been many years that Netball Singapore has supported all facets of the game and put serious work into the development of their umpires along with that of their players. That on-going development has made Singapore a hub for Umpire Development in the Asian Federation of Netball Associations. The end result of that leadership has placed Singaporean Umpires in best position to be appointed for International Events, especially those in Asia, and such is the case for Nations Cup 2011".

Yu Bee Ling, Eric Lee, Vincent Ong and Jasmin Yeo are all members of the Netball Singapore High Performance Umpire Squad and have had a range of experience umpiring at local and international events. Lee, who umpired at Nations Cup in 2010 and the Pan Pacific Games in June 2011 appreciates the significance of his selection, saying "My efforts and performances have been justified. With the level of umpiring in Singapore improving well and many up-and-coming and capable umpires competing for places, opportunities as such can no longer be guaranteed."

Vincent Ong, who has considerable international experience and has maintained his commitment and passion for umpiring, adds, "I enjoy the game and the excitement it brings – this is what sustains my passion and commitment to umpiring."

Bee Ling has made a comeback to umpiring at the highest level in Singapore this year after a leg injury kept her sidelined much of 2010. Bee Ling talks candidly about her appointment "To be appointed once again shows that I am back on track and provides motivation for me to keep learning, be consistent and remain committed to be the best I can."

Jasmin Yeo, the newest member to the High Performance Squad obtaining her A badge at the Netball Super League in March this year and invited to umpire at the Australian Underage National Championships in April, is excited about her selection for Nations Cup. She said, "This is the pinnacle of my umpiring year and I want to make the most of my opportunity to be coached by Chris Burton again".

Lee sums up on behalf of his colleague's adding, "It shows everyone that Singapore Umpires have what it takes to umpire at the international arena!"

Netball Singapore will be launching its **National Umpire Squad 2012** on **Sunday 4th December, 2011 at Kallang Netball Centre**. The Squad of 24 will be attending the FairPrice Foundation Nations Cup 2011 to support their colleagues and to obtain valuable professional development.

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For more information about the FairPrice Foundation Nations Cup 2011 go www.netball.org.sg

About Netball Singapore:

Netball Singapore is the national body for netball in Singapore. It is a well-established organisation, which has progressed dramatically since it commenced in 1962. It has become a professionally run National Sport Association which generates a proportion of its expenditure through sponsorship and other streams of revenue-generation. The association supports 68 multi-team club members and over 330 schools have netball in their curriculum.

Our mission is to encourage, promote and develop netball in Singapore. Singapore successfully hosted the World Netball Championships in July 2011 and are currently ranked 21st in the World.

For more information on Netball Singapore, log onto: www.netball.org.sg

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