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Immediate Release



Growing the multidisciplinary facets of the sports movement

For the first time in Singapore, academic members and key industry players in the sports industry gathered at the inaugural Classifying Disability & Sports Technology Conference (CDSTC) to “mobilise the sports movement in Asia”. Experts from various fields conference sought to share current information, research and expertise embodying aspects of both able-bodied and disability sports.

Organised by the Disability Classification and Research Centre (DCRC) Asia, which was founded by the Singapore Disability Sports Council (SDSC) to grow disability sports in Asia, CDSTC has brought together sports scientists, sport medicine practitioners, bioengineers, coaches, athletes and sport administrators together to encourage and promote cross-disciplinary professional exchanges and opportunities to familiarise with the various aspects of able-bodied and disability sports.

The conference, which took place in November at Singapore’s newest airport hotel, Crowne Plaza Changi hotel, was officially opened by Guest of Honour Ms Jessie Phua, Nominated Member of the Parliament of Singapore who is also the President of *Fédération Internationale des Quilleurs* (FIQ) or International Bowling Federation.

In his welcome address, DCRC Chairman, Mr Frankie Thanapal Sinniah emphasised that disability sports research should not be done in isolation. “Through the exchange of ideas and information among the sports industry, more progress and solutions can be achieved, benefiting sports as a whole. This conference is evidence of that.”

Over the course of the three days, over a hundred conference participants heard from several speakers from Australia, Austria, Malaysia and Canada who shared their expertise on the three themes of the conference - sports technology, sports training and sports medicine.

Amongst them were Dr Sean Tweedy from Australia’s University of Queensland; Dr Lee Young-Hee from South Korea’s Yonsei University, Dr Tetsuo Suyama from Japan’s Saitama Medical School who is also the Medical and Sports Chairman of the Asian Paralympic Committee (APC) and Prof Gordon Waddington who heads the physiotherapy department at the University of Canberra.

The Cerebral Palsy International Sports and Recreation Association (CPISRA) Chief Classifier, Ms Terrie Moore, was also present to speak on the International Paralympic Committee (IPC) Classification Code. Ms Moore stressed on how classification is evolving, “There is now a recognised need for athletes to be more involved. Classification needs to start locally.” She also announced CPISRA’s recent embarkation on an online classification programme in a bid to rally more potential classifiers.

As the challenges in Paralympic sports are multi-disciplinary, Dr Peter Van de Vliet, Medical and Scientific Director of the IPC felt that more collaborative efforts need to surface among researchers, sports federations that administer Paralympic Sport, as well as the Paralympic athletes and their coaching environment.

Dr Van de Vliet said that to elevate standards, the Paralympic Movement calls for more research and dissemination of knowledge. “A better understanding of sports training, technology and sports medicine – main themes of CDSTC 2008 – may ultimately answer any questions from the athletes or their coaches”

Similarly, Sports Physician Dr Jason Chia from the Changi Sports Medicine Centre, who was one of the keynote speakers, also noted that the topics of the conference are broad based and cover areas pertinent to the disabled as well as the able-bodied athlete. "It brings together professionals from diverse fields of sports science and gives them an opportunity to exchange ideas and understand each other's area of expertise and the role they play in the care of the athlete."

"This mirrors the model for sports medicine which draws expertise from different fields to ensure the best outcome for the athlete", Dr Chia added.

SDSC Sports Excellence Executive, Ms Badariyah O'Baley Ahmad Fu'ad, who is in charge of sailing programs for the disabled found the conference an insightful one and observed, "Topics such as *Sailing for Everyone – A Universal Design*, presented by Australian boat-maker, Chris Mitchell, will definitely aid in the running of our sports programs".

Through CDSTC, the organising committee hopes to instil interest and spur research in the field of sports so that it remains sustainable and progressive.

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About Disability Classification and Research Centre (DCRC)

GROWING DISABILITY SPORTS IN ASIA

Spearheaded by the Singapore Disability Sports Council (SDSC), the national governing body of disability sports in Singapore, the Disability Classification and Research Centre (DCRC) is the first of its kind in Asia to develop training programs and spearhead sports equipment research projects. To grow the pool of bio-engineers and disability sports professionals in the region, DCRC also establishes strategic partnerships with academic and industry partners in pursuit of a transcendent and all-inclusive sports hub in Singapore. Through its role as a research and development centre, DCRC is set to be the foci for growth in Paralympic sports in the Asian region.

For more information, visit us at www.dcrc-asia.org