

PRESS RELEASE

SQUASH FOR 2016 DAY

23 MAY 2009

MALAYSIAN EDITION

The world of squash is uniting to support the sport's bid for inclusion in the 2016 Olympic programme with a massive worldwide festival, "Squash For 2016 Day" on **23 May, 2009**. Every squash club on the planet is being urged to throw open its door to promote the sport and help the Olympic bid on this special day and to show people what a fantastic sport we have in squash.

This bid is especially significant to Malaysia as our players have scaled the very top in world squash. We have in Dato' Nicol David, the No.1 ranking woman player in the world. Both Ong Beng Hee and Mohd Azlan Iskandar, are players just outside the top 10 in the world but on any given day are capable of taking on the world's best. For all three, participating and hopefully winning at the Olympics in 2016 would be most fitting to end their illustrious squash careers.

Today, Malaysia has some of the best junior players in the world. In Low Wee Wern, we have this year's British Junior Open Champion and also Asian Junior Champion. And in Ivan Yuen, we have the British Junior Open Runners-up and also Asian Junior Champion. Both are ambitious, determined and are quick learners and would be in their prime, come 2016. Besides these two, Malaysia has a number of other juniors whose level of play is there amongst the world's best, namely Kamran Khan, Darren Subramaniam, Vanessa Raj, Celine Yap and others.

SRAM is making a concerted effort to assist the World Squash Federation (WSF), in their endeavour to take squash into the Olympics. With squash in the Olympics, Malaysia would have another sport, where we have a good chance of not only winning a medal but capturing the elusive gold medal.

WSF Patron, YAM Tan Sri Tunku Imran, who is also the President of the Olympic Council of Malaysia, has urged Malaysia as the leading squash nation in Asia to put on a gigantic show on this day. His fervent wish is for no less than 50 Clubs / Organisations nationwide to have a squash programme to celebrate the day.

SRAM has taken on YAM Tan Sri Tunku Imran's wish as a challenge, in urging all our State branches to get all the Clubs, Schools, Colleges, Universities and Squash Centres in their respective States to have a programme. It could be any squash programme, including just getting together to play squash and crying out, "**Squash for Olympics Twenty Sixteen**".

All State SRAs have responded with enthusiasm, to make 'Squash For 2016 Day' on 23 May, 2009 a day to remember. We have already hit the magic number of 50 Centres / Clubs that are committed to 'Squash For 2016 Day' (please see appended the Centres and Clubs involved). SRAM is confident

that by 23 May, 2009 we would have many more Centres and Clubs, joining in this day of celebration. This day will not only be recalled by all those involved but would go down into annals of Malaysian squash.

Firstly, 'Squash For 2016 Day' is to high profile the sport in all countries, by showing that we care passionately about squash being part of the Olympics. Secondly, we hope to take this passion further by helping raise funds to support the Bid process. All funds collected from all Centres and Clubs will be passed to WSF, to aid the Bid Committee. The Bid Committee had done a great job this far and can do more with this financial support.

Banners and T-shirts would be sent out to all States, to be distributed to all the Centres and Clubs. Squash enthusiasts would be given collar-pins, to be worn all through the campaign until the final vote at the IOC Congress in October in Copenhagen, Denmark. SRAM would also be giving a token sum to all State Branches, to defray some of the expenses that would be incurred in organising activities at their respective States.

Photos of activities at all the Centres and Clubs would be forwarded to WSF. These photos would be used by the Bid Committee to show the popularity of the game worldwide. WSF have dedicated a website for this event, www.worldsquashday.com which would carry all the activities held throughout the world. Our Malaysian activities hopefully will make a significant impact on this website.

SRAM would like to record our thanks to all State Branches and their officials, Centre Co-ordinators, Club Convenors, Club Managers and coaches for giving overwhelming support to make "Squash For 2016 Day" on 23 May, 2009, a grand success.

Most importantly, SRAM would like to express our profound appreciation and thanks to CIMB Foundation, for their magnanimous support in sponsoring this event nationwide.

JOIN THE FUN AND STAMP THE OCCASION

PERMANENTLY INTO THE HISTORY OF MALAYSIAN SQUASH

'HAPPY SQUASH FOR 2016 DAY'