

OPENING REMARKS BY MR OON JIN TEIK, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, SINGAPORE SPORTS COUNCIL AT THE LAUNCH OF ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION FOR SPORTS FRAMEWORK, 2.50 P.M. AT THE SINGAPORE SPORTS COUNCIL, GOLD ROOM ON SINGAPORE, 7 JANUARY 2008

Mr Teo Ser Luck, Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry for Community Development, Youth and Sports

Fellow panelists from Singapore National Olympic Council, Singapore International Arbitration Centre, Singapore Institute of Arbitrators, Singapore Mediation Centre

Distinguished guests, friends of the media, ladies and gentleman

A very good afternoon

On behalf of the Singapore Sports Council, I would like to wish all of you a very happy new year.

Thank you for making time to be here today for the launch of the Alternative Dispute Resolution for Sports framework. If you recall in 2007, a few unfortunate incidents took place between athletes and their national sports associations. China-born thrower Dong Enxin's case against the Singapore Athletics Association and triathlete Gino Ng's case with the Triathlon Association of Singapore were some examples.

Hence, the Singapore Sports Council has made a new resolution this year. We want to ensure that athletes and the NSAs receive the best help to resolve disputes in a most amicable fashion possible so as to maintain mutually beneficial working relationships. As many of us know, the athletes and the NSAs enjoy a mutually beneficial relationship.

Let me explain why. The athletes depend on the NSAs for coaching and training needs. At the same time, the NSAs also need to ensure that Singapore has a consistent stream of promising young talent available to continue the pipeline in our quest for sporting excellence.

However, it is inevitable that disputes do occur between athletes and the NSAs from time to time. To resolve this, we are therefore pleased to introduce the Alternative Dispute Resolution for Sports framework also known as ADR Sports for the sporting fraternity. While the SSC is driving this initiative, the framework is put together with invaluable inputs from the Singapore National Olympic Council, and the field experts in resolving disputes - the Singapore International Arbitration Centre, the Singapore Mediation Centre and the Singapore Institute of Arbitrators. With this, I would like to thank them for working with SSC in this initiative.

My colleague, Mr Ho Mun Wai, Director, Sports Management and Development Group, will share more details of the ADR Sports with you later.

It is now my pleasure to invite our Guest of Honour - Mr Teo Ser Luck, Parliamentary Secretary for the Ministry of Community Development, Youth and Sports to address us. Thank you.