



IFSC Preview Press Release

SINGAPORE FIRST IN ASIA TO HOST WORLD YOUTH SPORT CLIMBING CHAMPIONSHIP

Singapore, 29 AUGUST 2012 – Singapore hosts, for the first time, the International Federation of Sport Climbing (IFSC) World Youth Championship from 29th August to 1st September at Siloso Beach. The competition has attracted a record number of 540 competitors from a record 46 countries.

The largest climbing wall ever in Singapore – 24m by 16m – has been put up on Siloso Beach in Sentosa.

Being sited on a beach, the setting up of the wall, which took 12 days, involved special efforts to ensure the structure is stable. Ten counterweights – blocks of concrete – weighing a total of 10 tonnes, were used in the foundation. Each concrete block weighs a tonne. In addition, cables had to be tied from the back of the structure to the counterweights.

Commenting on the event, Mr Toh Boon Yi, Chief of the Strategic Development and Marketing Group, Singapore Sports Council said, “Bringing exciting international youth sports events to Singapore is one important aspect of Vision 2030. It helps create a platform where Singaporean youth can get involved in sports not just by watching, but also competing and volunteering. Through this, we hope to continue to cultivate a strong interest in sports among young Singaporeans. We are very excited to be working with the Singapore Mountaineering Federation to bring this event to Singapore.”





Said Competition Director, Mr Rasip Isnin: “We have been planning for this event since we won the bid, and we are happy to be able to attract more than 45 countries to compete. This event will certainly offer a treat to our local and regional climbers to witness the top world youth climbers in action.”

Mdm Halimah Yacob, Minister-of-State, Ministry of Community Development, Youth and Sports, will deliver the welcoming address at the Opening Ceremony on 28 August.

IFSC will send a team of 10 officials to help manage the event in Singapore, which has attracted the largest number of participants. Of the 540 participants, aged 14-19 years, 237 will be females and 303, males.

The largest contingent of 52 participants will be from Russia, followed by 47 from the United States, 38 from Singapore, 29 from South Africa and 26 each from Canada, Indonesia and South Korea.

Some of the notable names competing in these championships include Yaroslav Gantaryk, 19, from Ukraine. He is currently 9th in the 2012 World Men’s Speed ranking. This is all the more remarkable as the eight climbers higher ranked than him are all senior climbers.

Similarly, Momoko Oda, 18, from Japan, is currently 10th in the 2012 World Women Lead ranking, with all the higher ranked climbers in the senior ranks.

Poland’s Aleksandra Rudzinska, 18, is currently 7th in the World Women Speed ranking, with the top six ahead of her being seniors.





Singapore's challenge will be from two notable climbers, in Janice Lee, 19, Champion in the 2011 Asian Youth Championship for Female Junior Speed and Mohammed Hanzalah, 19, 8th in 2011 Asian Youth Championship in Men Junior Speed.

Organised jointly by the IFSC and the Singapore Mountaineering Federation (SMF), this year's Championship is especially significant as it is set against the backdrop of an upcoming bid in 2013 for Sport Climbing to be included in the Olympic Games in 2020. Eight new sports are currently vying to become part of the Olympic Games. The bid for Sport Climbing will be supported by the World Youth Championship 2012 in Singapore. Additionally, Sport Climbing is also bidding to be one of the medal sports for the SEA Games in 2015.

Commenting on this championship, Mr Marco Sclaris, President, International Federation of Sport Climbing, said: "Only three weeks after the end of the inspiring Olympic Games, the IFSC Youth World Championship in Singapore will celebrate the young generation of climbers, who aspire in the depth of their hearts, to be part of the Games in 2020. Sport Climbing represents a basic human movement (we climb before even being able to walk), that is attractive to youth because it's spontaneous. After the inclusion by the IOC of our sport in the shortlist for the 2020 Olympic Games, Singapore is an important step in this hardest climb, the event to show to the world our constant growth and the fantastic atmosphere that reigns in our (vertical) world. Best wishes to the athletes from all the five continents, the local organizers and the volunteers!"





About Singapore Mountaineering Federation

The Singapore Mountaineering Federation or SMF is the local NSA for all Mountaineering and Sports Climbing related matters. The SMF was established in 1993 and is a member of both the Asian and International Federations.

Besides the local national events, some of SMF international exposures include the organizing of the Asian Climbing Championship in 1996, World Cup Climbing Circuit in 2002/2006, hosting of the International Federation General Assembly in 2007, hosting of the South East Asia Climbing Circuits and many others.

SMF is managed by a team of volunteers from the local adventure clubs, with diverse expertise in various areas like event management, hospitality coordination etc.

Two key SMF Ex-co members are also office holders in the IF and AF. They are: Mr Anthony Seah, Vice President, SMF; Chairman of Events Commission (IF) and General Secretary of AF; and Mr Rasip Isnin, Secretary, SMF; Vice President, Trainings (AF) and Secretary General of South East Asia Federations.



About the International Federation of Sport Climbing

The IFSC was created unanimously by its members on January 27th 2007 and is a continuation of the International Council for Competition Climbing which has been in existence since 1997. The IFSC is member of Sportaccord and is recognised by the IOC.





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Enclosures

- Annex A: Fact Sheet





World Youth Climbing Championship 2012

Fact Sheet

The Championship comprises the Lead Competition and the Speed Competition. Lead climbing is the most classic sport climbing discipline. Competitors climb a long difficult route set by the route setter, and attempt to reach the top, which in climbing terms is the end of the route. In speed climbing on artificial walls, speed is the ultimate goal. Climbers will climb on a route with a rope anchored from a belayer on the ground via a top anchor.

There are three categories each for the Lead Competition and the Speed Competition:

- Juniors - males and females born in 1994/1993
- Youth A - males and females born in 1996/1995
- Youth B - males and females born in 1998/1997

The Chief Route Setter will be Laurent Laporte from France, as well as a committee of four from Asia – from Indonesia, Hong Kong, South Korea and Singapore, and another from Austria.

The event is totally volunteer-driven, with more than 200 volunteers, 80% of them young people aged 17 to 20. SMF has more than 60 volunteers, while 40 volunteers from Singapore Polytechnic's School of Digital Media are managing the filming and live streaming of the event. SMF will give scholarships worth \$2,500 each to two students.





There will also be 70 volunteers from ITE College West, and support from Outram Secondary School.

Key milestones in the bid to include Sport Climbing in the Olympic Games

- 10 Dec 2007: IOC granted provisional recognition to IFSC, welcoming Sport Climbing into the Olympic Movement
- 12 February 2010: IOC granted the definitive recognition to IFSC, that is now part of the Olympic Family
- 4 July 2011: IOC Executive Board decided to include sport climbing in the shortlist (together with seven other sports) for a possible new sport to enter the 2020 Olympic Games

