



**Media Release to be issued on 8 August 06**

## **Singapore bridge team bags the bronze at World Youth Championships!**

8 August 2006 – Singapore’s Junior Team (under 26 years) made an impact on the global bridge scene, by winning the bronze medal at the 11<sup>th</sup> World Youth Team Championships. The team of six comprises Alex Loh (26 years old), Loo Choon Chou (24 years old), Kelvin Ng (23 years old), Poon Hua (25 years old), Fabian Tan (26 years old) and Tan Li Yu (25 years old), captained by Mr Chua Gang (non-playing).

This prestigious international bridge tournament was held in Bangkok from 29 July to 8 August 2006, where there were a total of 18 teams competing for the Ortiz-Patiño Trophy. The other teams were Australia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, China Hong Kong, Egypt, France, Hungary, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Norway, Poland, Thailand and the USA (2 teams). Among a total of 44 pairs from these countries, Singapore’s anchor pair Poon Hua and Loo Choon Chou ranked first in their performance. The Singapore Junior team is due to arrive back in Singapore on 9<sup>th</sup> August 2006.

“It was a great honour to be competing against some of the greatest young minds in the world, and I am happy that Singapore could hold our own on the international scene. This is the first time that I have played against so many different nationalities and it has been an eye-opening experience,” said Kelvin, the youngest on the team, who is currently a law school undergraduate at the National University of Singapore.

“The fact that our Junior Youth team is returning back to Singapore tomorrow on National Day, as National bridge heroes, is most apt. The months of gruelling training and perseverance have paid off, as the team has played a crucial role in placing Singapore firmly on the bridge map, which is possibly the best birthday present we can give Singapore this year.” said Mr Stephen Robinson, President of the Singapore Contract Bridge Association (SCBA), which supported the team to play at the World Youth Championships.

The team qualified for the World Youth Team Championships, when they made an unprecedented victory as the champions of the 2006 Pacific Asia Bridge Federation (PABF) Youth Championships without losing a single match. (Visit [www.scba.org.sg](http://www.scba.org.sg) for the PABF 2006 press release)

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### **About the Singapore Contract Bridge Association (SCBA)**

The Singapore Contract Bridge Association aims to encourage the growth and development of contract bridge in Singapore. SCBA is a member of the World Bridge Federation (WBF), the Pacific Asia Bridge Federation (PABF) and the ASEAN Bridge Council. It is also recognised by the Singapore Sports Council as the National Sports Association for Contract Bridge in Singapore. SCBA is located at the Singapore Intellectual Games Centre in Bishan.

Bridge is an ideal mind sport for men and women, of all ages, races, and backgrounds. The card game requires players to form partnerships and pit their wit against another partnership. Bridge trains logic, reasoning, memory, concentration, as well as ethics, trust and honour. Studies have shown that practicing bridge is an excellent protection against illnesses, such as Alzheimer's and Parkinson disease. Great minds around the world are known to play bridge, including Warren Buffet, Bill Gates, Omar Sharif, Deng Xiao Ping, Mao Ze Dong and Charles Schultz.

For more information, visit: [www.scba.org.sg](http://www.scba.org.sg)

For more information on the 11<sup>th</sup> World Youth Team Championships, visit: <http://www.worldbridge.org/tourn/Bangkok.06/Bangkok.htm>