



SINGAPORE CANOE FEDERATION

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Singapore ends 7-year medal drought for Canoeing at the SEA Games

Hai Phong, Vietnam, 21 May 2022 – Team Singapore Canoeing wrapped up their Southeast Asian (SEA) Games campaign with a haul of 2 golds and 1 bronze. The Canoe and Kayak events for the 2021 SEA Games were held at the Thuy Nguyen Hai Phong Aquatics Centre, from 17 to 21 May 2022.

This performance came after a 7-year medal drought, where Canoeing had their best showing at the 2015 SEA Games with 7 golds and 5 silvers.

Canoeing was dropped from the 2017 SEA Games while the 2019 SEA Games featured all debutants, who missed out on the podium finishes.

The first gold for Canoeing at the 31st edition of the SEA Games was won by Teo Guang Yi Lucas on Wednesday (18 May). He led the Men's K1 1000m final with a timing of 03:51.501, ahead of five other competitors. Indonesia achieved the silver (03:56.446), while Thailand claimed the bronze (3:58.278).

Lucas later returned and dominated the Men's K2 1000m final with teammate Brandon Ooi Wei Cheng on Thursday (19 May). They edged out the five other competitors to secure the second gold with a timing of 03:40.779. Indonesia claimed the silver (3:45.266), while Myanmar took the bronze (3:45.499).

Lucas was ecstatic when he crossed the finish line in the single event. The 32-year-old said: "It has been 3 years of preparation leading up to the Games. Apart from training on and off with the various COVID-19 restrictions, I have been busy coaching at the ActiveSG Canoe Academy."

Speaking more about the next generation of paddlers, Lucas added: "There are now so many more young people who are exposed to the sport, and many of them have expressed desire to do more and better. It has built a much bigger talent pipeline than we had in the past. Based on that alone, the future seems bright."

Brandon felt both joy and relief when he paddled past the finish in the doubles event. The 27-year-old said: "The K2 1000m is a challenging event to do well in, but the feeling when a plan comes together is one of the best feelings in the world. To win this a second time and by a larger margin just shows that what we've been working on is paying off."

Regarding his future plans, Brandon will be heading to Poland for the ICF Canoe Sprint World Cup. "After the World Cup, I'll be training with the Hungarians and my big aim is the K1 500m at the ICF Canoe Sprint World Championships," he added.

Brandon, joined by teammates and debutants Jovi Jayden Kalaichelvan, Koh Teck Wai Daniel, and Pan Congchang, won the bronze in the Men's K4 500m final today (21 May) when they finished 3rd with a timing of 01:32.025. Indonesia took the gold (01:29.562), while Thailand claimed the silver (01:31.087).



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CongChang, 16, is one of the youngest athletes at the Games. He said: “There was definitely some pressure before the start but we handled it really well by staying composed throughout. Overall, it was an amazing experience because we gave everything we had.”

Jovi, 21, said: “Coming in to the Games, I didn’t train much because of NS so that was a struggle, but I didn’t feel much pressure as I was confident that we could perform up to our own expectations.”

It has been a dream since 2013 for Daniel to represent Singapore in the SEA Games. The 25-year-old said: “I’m finally here after a rollercoaster ride with COVID-19 and all the restrictions. I didn’t feel pressured to win anything, but I was most afraid of not putting on my best show so the result was a bonus for me.”

Brandon, being the senior of the team, was proud of the race outcome. “Pressure was there for sure, but after the experience of racing in the heats, everyone handled it really well. We came away with something and I think that will drive all of us especially the young ones to go for better in the next edition,” he said.

The results of the other races at the 2021 SEA Games are as follows:

1. Women’s K4 1000m Final - Victoria Chiew Xi Jie, Saw Jia Ning Deborah, Angelica See Rui Xiao, and Soh Sze Ying finished 4th with a timing of 03:47.102, missing the medal placings by less than 2 seconds.
2. Men’s K4 1000m Final – Kendrick Ang Zhong Yi, Pan Congchang, Tay Zi Qiang, and Teo Wei Jie Sean finished 5th with a timing of 03:19.978, coming behind the 3rd & 4th placings by a close margin.
3. Women’s K2 1000m Final – Victoria Chiew Xi Jie and Daniella Barbara Lawther finished 4th with a timing of 04:30.791. Despite being debutants, they pushed their limits and finished with a commendable placing.
4. Men’s C2 1000m Final – Chan Hon Yan Gereon and Lucas Huan Zhi Kai finished 6th with a timing of 04:16.061. They raced to their very best and came in close after the 3rd to 5th placings.
5. Women’s C2 500m Final – Siew Yu Ying Clara and Tan Lyn Cai finished 4th with a timing of 02:24.072. They put up a great fight at their very first SEA Games.
6. Women’s K2 500m Final – Victoria Chiew Xi Jie and Soh Sze Ying finished 4th with a timing of 02:00.993. They persevered on and finished with a commendable placing, just missing the podium.
7. Women’s C1 500m Final – Siew Yu Ying Clara finished 6th with a timing of 02:30.479. A debutant at the SEA Games, she raced to her very best despite the challenges.
8. Women’s K4 500m Final – Chan Wern Min Rachel, Saw Jia Ning Deborah, Angelica See Rui Xiao, and Soh Sze Ying finished 4th with a timing of 01:48.824. It was a tight race as all the competitors finished about 1 second away from each other.
9. Women’s C1 200m Final – Tan Lyn Cai finished 5th with a timing of 56.400. She pressed on at her first SEA Games and finished close to the 3rd and 4th placings.

The Canoeing contingent fielded 18 athletes, out of which 13 are debutants. Head Kayak Sprint Coach, Lee Wei Liang Bill, expressed his excitement on leading the team: “We are in a transition phase with many young athletes coming through strongly. After 2 years of not having much race exposure due to COVID-19 , they have performed well.”



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“It’s amazing that the Men’s K4 500m team with 3 debutants could bag a medal. It is truly a team effort and inspires belief that we can go on to achieve more as a team,” he added.

Bill, a gold medallist at the 2015 SEA Games, is leading the Canoeing team as Head Coach for the first time at the Games. He said: “I feel a huge sense of responsibility in preparing the athletes both physically and mentally to perform to the best of their abilities at the Games.”

Regarding the gold medals achieved, Bill added: “Lucas and Brandon are the seniors in the team with a track record - previously gold medallists at the 2015 SEA Games. We are happy that they are able to replicate that result and lead by example for the rest of the team.”

The Canoeing team will continue to work hard as one team to reach greater heights and bring honour and glory to Singapore.

About Singapore Canoe Federation

The Singapore Canoe Federation (SCF) was founded in 1971 and is the National Sports Association responsible for the management, development and promotion of canoeing in Singapore. It represents the interest of its athletes and members to Sport Singapore (Previously known as the Singapore Sports Council), the Singapore National Olympic Council (SNOC), the public and other International Canoeing bodies.

The SCF aims to promote opportunities for public participation in a full range of canoeing activities in Singapore with high standards of safety. Among other things, the SCF aspires to:

- Nurture and prepare its elite and potential athletes to medal at the SEA Games, Asian Games and other regional/international competitions.
- Uphold high standards of sportsmanship.
- Champion the development and enjoyment by the public of all canoeing disciplines in Singapore.
- Develop and promote Singapore as a venue of choice for regional/international canoeing championships/events.

The SCF is affiliated to the International Canoe Federation (ICF), the Asian Canoe Confederation (ACC), SNOC and the People’s Association (PA). For more information, please visit www.scf.org.sg.

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