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For immediate release

## Four Singapore Athletes to Compete at World Para Athletic Championships 2023



Above (Left to Right) Coach Muhamad Hosni Bin Muhamad, Athletics Coach, James Ethan Ang, Muhammad Diroy Noordin, Maisarah Bte Mohamad Hassan, Lionel Toh Jun Jie, Suhairi Bin Suhaini (Image Credit: Singapore National Paralympic Council/Goh Si Wei)

Following their performance at the recently concluded 12th Asean Para Games 2023 in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, four para athletics athletes will next represent Singapore at the highly anticipated World Para Athletics Championships, set to take place in Paris, France, from 8 to 17 July.

The athletes who have qualified for this prestigious event are ASEAN Para Games 2023 medalists James Ethan Ang and Muhammad Diroy Bin Noordin, as well as their APG 2023 compatriots Suhairi Bin Suhani, and Maisarah Binte Mohamed.

The World Para Athletics Championships hold tremendous significance for athletes worldwide, serving as a pivotal milestone in their journey towards securing qualification slots for the upcoming 2024 Paris Paralympic Games. Athletes finishing within the top 4

or better in their events at the World Championships 2023 will earn qualification for one of these highly coveted slots, further igniting the competitive spirit among the world's finest para athletes.

With the countdown underway and the spotlight shining on Paris 2024, Singapore's para athletics team is poised to showcase their talent and indomitable spirit.

Mr Tim Newenham, Pathway and Performance Director, Singapore Disability Sports Council (SDSC), described the World Para Athletics Championships 2023, as an opportunity for James, Diroy, Maisarah and Suhairi “to build on the momentum” they generated at the recently concluded ASEAN Para Games 2023.

“Maisarah will enjoy racing well in a quality 100m, while Suhairi will have a good opportunity to jump further than what he did in the APG, partly as he aggravated a slight injury there. For James, it will be a case of ‘more of the same’ in the 400m, as he recently produced a superb Personal Best and broke the National Record in the event. Diroy is the most experienced of these four para athletes at high-level events and will, as usual, be competing in the shot. He has been working to embed his relatively new technique to gain more consistency and generate a faster release speed, which should give him a good lead into a better performance than the APG.”

## **Annex A – Athlete Profiles for 2023 World Para Athletics Championships**

### **Annex B – Classification**

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### **About Singapore Disability Sports Council (SDSC)**

Established in 1973 by the then Ministry of Social Affairs, the Singapore Disability Sports Council (SDSC) is Singapore's national sports body for persons with disabilities. Committed to transforming the lives of individuals with disabilities through sports, the SDSC engages, develops, and promotes excellence among persons with disabilities.

In partnership with its members - an alliance of social service agencies, parasport and mainstream sport organizations - the SDSC drives Singapore's movement towards greater inclusivity. SDSC's efforts have produced inspiring success stories such as Aloysius Gan, Asian Youth Para Games medalist, and Yip Pin Xiu, Singapore's most decorated Paralympian.

More information at [www.sdsc.org.sg](http://www.sdsc.org.sg)

## Annex A – Athlete Profiles for 2023 World Para Athletics Championships

SN	Name	Profile	Event
1	James Ethan Ang	<p>Born with a visual impairment, James Ang competes under the T13 classification. Following a bronze finish debut in the Men's 400m T13 event at the Dubai Grand Prix in February 2023, James blazed his way to a gold in the Men's 200m T13 and a silver in the Men's 100m T13 events at the Marrakech Grand Prix, just one month later. Currently, James studies law at the Singapore Management University. In his free time, he enjoys singing and playing the guitar.</p> <p><b>Recent Wins</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Asean Para Games 2023: MEN T13 400M FINAL(Silver), MEN T13 200M FINAL (SILVER)</li> <li>• World Para Athletics Grand Prix - Marrakech 2023: MEN T13/47 200M FINAL (Gold), MEN T13/47 100M FINAL (Silver)</li> </ul>	Men's 400m T13
2	Muhammad Diroy Bin Noordin	<p>Born with short stature, Diroy competes under the F40 classification. During his international debut at the 2016 China Open Athletics Championships, Diroy surprised himself by earning a medal – a gold, no less. Since then, he has continued to work on his craft and has consistently seen improvements in his techniques. Diroy represented Singapore at the Rio 2016 Paralympic Games, where he achieved a respectable 9th place in the F40 Men's Shot Put event. In 2018, Diroy achieved 4th place at the Asian Para Games in the F40 Men's Shot Put and 7th place in the F40/F41 Men's Javelin events. At the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games, Diroy broke his own national record twice, achieving a distance of 9.92m in the Men's Shot Put F40 event and finishing 8th.</p> <p><b>Recent Wins</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Asean Para Games 2023 - MEN T40/41 SHOT PUT FINAL (Gold)</li> <li>• World Para Athletics Grand Prix - Marrakech: MEN T40/41 SHOT PUT FINAL (Gold)</li> </ul>	Men's Shot Put F40

3	Maisarah Binte Mohamed	<p>Despite having cerebral palsy, which weakens the left side of her body, Maisarah strives hard and has competed in a number of para athletics competitions under the T36 classification. She achieved Gold in the WOMEN T35/36 100M event at the World Para Athletics Grand Prix - Marrakech 2023.</p> <p><b>Recent Wins</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• World Para Athletics Grand Prix - Marrakech: WOMEN T35/36 100M FINAL (GOLD)</li> <li>• 2022 ASEAN Para Games - WOMEN T36/37 200m event (BRONZE)</li> </ul>	Women's 100m T36
4	Suhairi Bin Suhani	<p>Suhairi debuted at the 2013 ASEAN Para Games, competing in the T20 category for athletes with intellectual impairment. He earned his first major game medal - a silver - on home ground during the 2015 Asean Para Games, in the Men's Long Jump T20 event. Suhairi also qualified for the Rio 2016 Paralympic Games, and became the first athlete with intellectual impairment to be awarded a Sports Excellence scholarship by SportSG.</p> <p>At the 2018 Asian Para Games, Suhairi leaped a distance of 6.60m in the Men's Long Jump T20 event and placed 5th. Suhairi generously shares his experience with younger peers to keep them motivated, as well as educators from special and mainstream schools to help them understand the power of sports for persons with intellectual impairment.</p>	Men's Long Jump T20

## Annex B – Classification

Please check <https://www.paralympic.org/athletics/classification> for indepth information on how para athletes are classified in para athletics.