



PRESS RELEASE

Exciting talents heading for Singapore Badminton Open

Over 280 shuttlers from 22 nations to take part as registration closed

[Singapore, 7th June 2018] Over 280 shuttlers from 22 nations have signed up for the Singapore Badminton Open 2018, part of the HSBC BWF World Tour Series, which will be held from 17th to 22nd July at the Singapore Indoor Stadium.

Entries closed on 5th June with powerhouse nations China, Malaysia, Japan and host nation Singapore confirming their respective lists of participating players. They join other top nations such as Thailand, Indonesia, India and England to compete for honours for the HSBC BWF World Tour Super 500 tournament.

China will be sending a 22-strong squad, headed by men's singles world No. 30 Huang Yuxiang, who enjoyed a brilliant run at the All England Open in March, going all the way to the semi-finals before falling to superstar compatriot Lin Dan in 3 sets.

The China contingent will also include both men's and women's singles winners at the recent Australian Open in May. Lu Guangzu was triumphant in the men's singles competition in beating compatriot Zhou Zeqi, while Cai Yanyan could resume battle with Japan's Ayumi Mine as both finalists are also taking part in the Singapore Badminton Open.

Host Singapore will have 23 players across all five categories challenging for honours at the Singapore Badminton Open. Many of them will be fresh from their Commonwealth Games outing in Gold Coast, Australia, in April, when they gave a good account in representing the Republic.

Among them was men's singles player Loh Kean Yew, who faced top shuttlers such as England's Rajiv Ouseph, India's K. Srikanth and Malaysia's Lee Chong Wei, but pushed all of them hard at the Games.

"The Singapore Badminton Open is always a special tournament for every Singapore national player, and we will definitely be motivated to play at our very best in front of our home fans," Loh said.

This tournament also marks the first home competition for national head coach Mulyo Handoyo in his second stint with Singapore, and he hopes his charges can show their battling spirit and execute their game plans well.

"Fans will be big factors in pushing our players towards their best performances, and it will be a great experience for many of our young talents," he said.



Japan will be sending rising star Sayaka Takahashi (women's world No. 15), who enjoyed a superb month of May, winning the New Zealand Open women's singles title and then helping the Japan women's team to their Uber Cup triumph.

She will be among 15 Japanese players at the Singapore Badminton Open, which will also include New Zealand Open women's doubles winners Ayako Sakuramoto/Yukiko Takahata. Malaysia will be fielding a 26-strong contingent at the Singapore Badminton Open, and will be led by men's world No. 35 Daren Liew, women's world No. 31 Goh Jin Wei and the world No. 7 mixed doubles pair of Goh Soon Huat and Shevon Jemie Lai.

This year's Singapore Badminton Open is set to feature badminton stars such as former women's world champion Ratchanok Intanon of Thailand, defending men's singles champion Sai Praneeth and Indonesia's reigning Olympic mixed doubles champions Tontowi Ahmad and Liliyana Natsir.

Tickets for the Singapore Badminton Open 2018 are available via Sports Hub Tix and APAC Tix.

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