

Dance Flame

The Official Newsletter of the Singapore DanceSport Federation

A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

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8th SGDF SINGAPORE OPEN



The 2009 IDSF Asia-Pacific Championships were held on Saturday 1 August 2009, at the Singapore Expo in Singapore. Frequent visitors to Singapore, would know of the clockwork precision that Singapore and her people are well-known for, and this was very much evident in the organization and execution of the prestigious event. The event was held in conjunction with the 8th SGDF Singapore Open DanceSport Championships.

With a new hotel and new competition venue, the SGDF did everything possible to ensure that the event would run smoothly.

With the current world financial crisis and the prevalent Swine Flu (“H1N1”) that was sweeping the world, many wondered if Singapore would be able to pull this off.

As usual, the expertise and determination of the Singapore DanceSport Federation (SGDF) ensured that these two factors were the least of the problems that would face the competitors, adjudicators and visitors to the event.

Competitors and visitors started to arrive at the city-state as early as Monday 27 July 2009. They were here to soak up the sun, and enjoy the hospitality of Singapore. The Official Hotel was the *Grand Mercure Roxy Hotel*, which was situated in the idyllic East Coast of Singapore. A stone’s throw from the beaches, and in the shopping and entertainment belt of the East. The large and friendly Championship Secretariat was ably manned by volunteers from the SGDF, who left no stone unturned to ensure that all enquiries were attended to promptly. Adjudicators who arrived in Singapore early, took a city-tour of Singapore which covered Little India, Chinatown and the Singapore Flyer.

The Adjudicators were invited to a delectable Welcome Dinner at the Jia Wei Restaurant within the hotel on the eve of the Championships, which was hosted by the SGDF President, Mr Robert Ong.



On the day of the Championships, the SGDF again showed why they were pulling out all the stops to make this a memorable event for everyone. Promptly at 9:00am, five huge air-conditioned buses arrived to ferry the competitors from the hotel to the competition venue. The buses left at 5 minute intervals, to ensure that no one was left behind. The Adjudicators were brought to the competition venue in a mini-bus much later, for them to have a good breakfast before starting on their difficult task to select the 2009 Asia-Pacific Champions.

The competition venue was beginning to fill up with competitors and spectators. Tickets for the event were sold out 2 weeks prior to the Championships. By 11:45am, the competition venue was packed to the brim. Luckily for the competitors, the organizers cordoned off a large area for them to warm-up, change and relax, away from the spectators – this was a welcome move as indicated by many competitors.

At precisely 12:00pm, the championships began. The wonderful music filled the ballroom and the competitors were clearly enjoying themselves. Throughout the day, the championships were interlaced with other local events, and the IDSF Open Latin & IDSF Open Standard. The pace at which these events were run, showed how a title-event could be organised in conjunction with other local event, which was at a pleasant pace for the spectators.

The day events ended at 5:00pm, giving the venue stewards sufficient time to change the setting from the informal Day Event arena seating, to the Evening Events setup with an 8-course Chinese Dinner setup.

Again, the event started promptly at 6:00pm and the rest of the evening was a wonderful experience of great food, fantastic music and atmosphere, and superb dancing. Opening remarks from SGDF President Mr Robert Ong, followed by IDSF Presidium Member and Chairman of Adjudicators Mr Shawn Tay set the stage for a night of fierce but friendly competition.

The results of the Asia-Pacific Championships are as follows:

2009 IDSF ASIA-PACIFIC STANDARD		2009 IDSF ASIA-PACIFIC LATIN	
1 st	Masayuki Ishihara & Ayami Kubo (Japan)	1 st	Shi Lei / Zhang Baiyu (China)
2 nd	Shen Hong & Liang YuJie (China)	2 nd	Yumiya Kubota / Rara Kubota (Japan)
3 rd	Michael Glikman & Milana Deitch (Australia)	3 rd	Fan Wenbo / Chen Shiyao (China)
4 th	Wu Zhian / Zheng Cen (China)	4 th	Ronnie Steeve Vergara / Charlea Lagaras (Philippines)
5 th	Rhett Salmon / April McMahon (Australia)	5 th	Stuart Canning / Gabrielle Russo (Australia)
6 th	Ryo Yoshikawa / Ema Ishii (Japan)	6 th	Jeremy Basile / Megan Wragg (Australia)
		7 th	John Erolle Melencio / Dearlie Gerodias (Philippines)
<i>Detailed Results Available at www.dancesport.org.sg</i>			

Again, the Championships ended promptly at 10:40pm, and the competitors and adjudicators were ushered into their waiting air-conditioned buses to take them back to the hotel. Yes, it was sheer delight for everyone present that the 2009 IDSF Asia-Pacific Championships ended on a very successful note.

(SNIPPETS OF THE EVENT WAS AIRED ON MEDIACORP'S *SPORTS@SG* ON THURSDAY 7 AUG 2009)

2009 ASIAN YOUTH CHAMPIONS

The 2009 IDSF Asian Youth Championships were also held in conjunction with the 8th SGDF Singapore Open DanceSport Championships. Singapore was ably represented by the young and attractive pair of Lim Chong Aik & Riane Low. They swept top honours and were crowned Champions in the Youth Latin category, which was witnessed by several government officials, including those from the Singapore Sports Council (SSC). Both Chong Aik and Riane are no strangers to the SSC, having represented Singapore at the 2nd Asian Indoor Games in Macau in 2007. Finally, after a dry lapse of 2 years, dancesports in Singapore is starting to look pretty bright again.



2009 IDSF ASIA-PACIFIC DANCESPORT CHAMPIONS



Shen Hong & Liang YuJie (China), Masayuki Ishihara & Ayami Kubo (Japan), Michael Glikman & Milana Deitch (Australia), Wu Zhian / Zheng Cen (China), Rhett Salmon / April McMahon (Australia), Ryo Yoshikawa / Ema Ishii (Japan), with Shawn Tay (IDSF Presidium Member)



Yumiya Kubota / Rara Kubota (Japan), Shi Lei / Zhang Baiyu (China), Fan Wenbo / Chen Shiyao (China), Ronnie Steeve Vergara / Charlea Lagaras (Philippines), Stuart Canning / Gabrielle Russo (Australia), Jeremy Basile / Megan Wragg (Australia), John Erolle Melencio / Dearlie Gerodias (Philippines) with Shawn Tay (IDSF Presidium Member)

DANCESPORT TRAINING BY MARKUS SONYI

Never to rest on their laurels after a successful 8th SGDF Singapore Open DanceSport Championships, the SGDF organised a dancesport workshop by world-renown coach and adjudicator, Mr Markus Sonyi (Germany). Mr Sonyi is no stranger to Singapore, this being his third visit here (his first was in 2005 for the 2005 IDSF Asia-Pacific DanceSport Championships).



The workshop entitled “*Presentation of Latin Dances in Competition*” was very well-received by the participants comprising members from the SGDF and the various affiliates. When asked if the workshop was useful, an affiliate member remarked “It was a different insight from what is usually taught, and was an eye-opener and great experience. Thank you, SGDF.” The SGDF will continue to organise and conduct more such workshops in the near future. Stay tuned for developments.

IDSF NEWS – CHANGES TO THE IDSF ADJUDICATION SYSTEM

The proposal for the new IDSF judging system is based on the JDSF Rules for the new judging system, that were first presented to the IDSF Presidium in 2008. The system is using International Skating Union (ISU) judging system as a framework which has International Olympic Committee (IOC)’s approval. The decision has been made to test this new judging system together with the new format at the Final of Grand Slam in Shanghai in December 2009.

IN THE NEXT ISSUE:

★ An insight to the 3rd Asian Indoor Games ★ NTU DanceSport Academy’s Latin Workshop with World Champion Stefano Di Filippo ★ 1st NTU DanceSport Academy’s Closed DanceSport Championships ★ 1st Kulai Open DanceSport Championships ★ Asia’s Wonder Kids ★ Performance at the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Dinner