



SINGAPORE SPORTS HUB

SINGAPORE SPORTS HUB CELEBRATES C. KUNALAN'S SPORTING LEGACY



National sprinter, Mr C. Kunalan, posing at the Singapore Sports Museum's Hall of Fame, with the torch used to light the former National Stadium cauldron

Singapore, 19 October 2018 – The Singapore Sports Hub today honoured the legacy of national sprinter, Mr C. Kunalan, with the unveiling of an artefact – a hand and foot cast of the 76-year-old – at the Singapore Sports Museum.

The event marks the first time in Singapore's history that a sportsperson has been honoured with such an artefact. Mr Kunalan has a distinguished sports career having won 15 Southeast Asian Peninsular (SEAP) Games medals and five from the Asian Games. Twice awarded the Sportsman of the Year in 1968 and 1969, his 100 metres time of 10.38 seconds at the Mexico Olympics is a record that has lasted for 33 years.

Mr Kunalan said of the process behind the artefact: "This experience has been fun and I feel very humbled by it all. I am just glad that I can share my story through the exhibit display. I wish I could do more for the community because this is the community that has given me so many, many opportunities in life."

Prior to the unveiling, a hand and foot casting was conducted by local artist, Baet Yeok Kuan, on 11 October, witnessed by the local track and field fraternity. During the process, Mr Kunalan enchanted the younger generation with stories from his history, such as how he soldiered on to light the flames at the 1973 SEAP Games despite burning his hand during the lighting of the cauldron.

Mr Oon Jin Teik, Chief Executive Officer, Singapore Sports Hub, said, "Mr Kunalan is an inspiration not just for athletics, but for the whole of Singapore's sports community. It is important that we remember his story here at the Singapore Sports Museum, so that others can learn from it and be motivated by it. Achievements aside, his dedication to volunteering at the museum and imparting his wisdom to others is extraordinary. This makes him an excellent role model for all."

Mr Lim Teck Yin, Chief Executive Officer, Sport Singapore, said, "Giving back to sport is something that runs in Mr Kunalan's veins. His dedication to sport is exemplary and till this day, he continues to contribute through the ActiveSG Athletics Club. His achievements make him one of Singapore's greatest athletes and his humility as a person is something all of us can learn from. We hope that through this honour, his contribution to sport and his story will continue to inspire our athletes and generations to come."

A senior manager at Sport Singapore, Mr Kunalan was formerly an educator for almost 50 years before retirement in 2010. His contribution to education was recognised with the receipt of the Meritorious Service Medal, part of the National Day Awards in 2015.

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PHOTOS & VISUALS

19 Oct: Artefact unveiling

- Download link: <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/j8hf1akzvlucld/AABLHu9oGnweZzTM-PevwdDaa?dl=0>
- Photo credit: Singapore Sports Hub

11 Oct: Hand and foot casting

- Download link: https://www.dropbox.com/sh/d7yydwd5vtegn3/AABMSQwC_iBkYeFDq1T2OZXPa?dl=0
- Photo credit: "Singapore Sports Hub" or "Sport Singapore" (pending on folder title)

VIDEO

Download link: <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/47bm0gdvpc6okb/AACQ5uFOWrhoRhjrRGRJpHwpa?dl=0>

CITATION FOR MR CANAGASABAI KUNALAN

Mr C Kunalan is regarded as one of Singapore's greatest athletes and mentor to sport. His contribution to Athletics extends beyond medals and national records. Till this day, he continues to give back to sport as an administrator and is an inspiration to all athletes.

He started his career as a sprinter at the age of 20 when he was a student teacher and was invited by the then National Coach Tan Eng Yoon, to go for training at the Farrer Park Athletics Centre.

Despite starting the sport at a late age, Kunalan would go on to win multiple medals at the Asian Games and South East Asian Peninsular (SEAP) Games and SEA Games in the 100m, 200m sprint and relays; and in 1968, he set the Singapore national record of 10.38 seconds in the 100m sprint at the Mexico City Summer Olympic Games. The record would stay unbroken for 33 years.

Kunalan's notable achievements include:

- 1966 Asian Games, 100m sprint, Silver, 4 x 400m relay Bronze
- 1967 SEAP Games, 100m, 200m, 4 x100m, 4 x 400m Silver
- 1969 SEAP Games, 100m 1969 SEAP Games, 200m sprint, Gold
- 1969 SEAP Games, 4 X 400m relay, Gold
- 1969 SEAP Games, 4 x 100m relay, Bronze
- 1970 Asian Games, 100m sprint, Bronze
- 1970 Asian Games, 200m sprint, Bronze
- 1973 SEAP Games, 4 x 400m relay, Silver
- 1974 Asian Games, 4 x 100m relay Bronze
- 1975 SEAP Games, 4 x 400m Gold, 4 x 100m Silver, 4 x 200m Silver
- 1977 SEA Games, 100m Bronze, 4 x 100m relay, Silver (at age 35 years)
- Best Sportsman of the Year for 1968 and 1969
- Inducted into the Sports Museum Hall of Fame in 2002.

After retiring from competition in 1970, Kunalan made a comeback in 1973 where he had the honour to light the 1973 SEAP Games cauldron at the National Stadium where Singapore hosted the Games for the very first time. He would also compete in the 4 x 400m relay event where Singapore won the silver medal.

Kunalan holds the distinction as the first person to light the National Stadium's cauldron; he would also be the last person to light the cauldron of the Grand Old Dame of Kallang, also known as the old National Stadium before it was closed in 2007. The National Stadium was rebuilt to be part of the iconic Singapore Sports Hub.

After retiring from competitive running in 1978, he continued to serve the sport as the National Sprints Coach from 1993 to 1996. Under his guidance, the national team broke the 4 x 100m relay record in 1994. A record that Kunalan had helped set back in 1974.

Beyond sport, Kunalan served as a teacher in Tiong Bahru Primary School and Dunearn Secondary Technical School for 20 years before joining the National Institute of Education in 1980 as a lecturer. There, he contributed significantly to the training of physical education teachers. He was also one of the 23 members of the Singapore Youth Olympic Games Organising Committee (SYOGOC) and was appointed as a Deputy Mayor of the Youth Olympic Village at the Nanyang Technology University when Singapore hosted the inaugural Youth Olympic Games in 2010.

In the National Day Honours, Mr Kunalan was conferred the Efficiency Medal 1976 and then the Meritorious Service Medal in 2015, showing the span of his contribution to the nation.

He continues to keep his association with Athletics strong and is now with ActiveSG Athletics Club to inspire the next generation of athletes.

ABOUT THE SINGAPORE SPORTS HUB

The Singapore Sports Hub is a fully integrated sports, entertainment and lifestyle hub, with programming that comprises world-class recreational and competitive events, as well as community events, to serve children, youth, working adults, seniors, families, and less privileged population segments in Singapore and tourism sectors. Consisting of a unique cluster development of world-class sports facilities within the city, it plays a critical role in accelerating the development of Singapore's sports industry, excellence and participation. Its vision is to be the region's premier sports, entertainment and lifestyle destination.

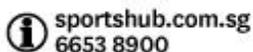
Located on a 35-hectare site in Kallang, the Singapore Sports Hub includes the following facilities:

- A new 55,000-capacity National Stadium with a retractable roof and movable tiered seating designed to host Football, Rugby, Athletics, Cricket, entertainment events, and many more
- The 11,000-capacity iconic Singapore Indoor Stadium for sports and entertainment events
- A 6,000-capacity OCBC Aquatic Centre that can host international events and public swims
- A 3,000-capacity OCBC Arena with six halls that are scalable and flexible in layout
- Water Sports Centre featuring kayaking, canoeing, dragon boating, and pedal boating
- 41,000 sqm Kallang Wave Mall, including indoor climbing wall
- Splash-N-Surf facility featuring the Kids Water Playground, Stingray and Lazy River
- 100PLUS Promenade that encircles the National Stadium
- Singapore Sports Museum and Singapore Youth Olympic Games Museum
- Shimano Cycling World
- Sports Hub Library
- Daily community facilities and activities, including beach volleyball, hard courts (futsal, basketball and netball), lawn bowls, giant chess, skate park and running & cycling paths
- Large waterfront and precinct spaces (e.g. OCBC Square, Arena Park, Stadium Roar)

The Singapore Sports Hub, managed by SportsHub Pte Ltd, is one of the largest Public-Private Partnership (PPP) social infrastructure projects in the world. It is also Singapore's largest flagship PPP project of this nature, and has won the Project Finance International (PFI) award in London in 2011, World Architecture Festival Awards for Best Future Project in the leisure-led development category in 2013, and Sports Building of the Year in 2014. For more information, please visit the Singapore Sports Hub:

- Website: www.sportshub.com.sg
- Facebook: [sporesportshub](https://www.facebook.com/sporesportshub)
- Twitter: [@sgsportshub](https://twitter.com/sgsportshub)
- Instagram: [sgsportshub](https://www.instagram.com/sgsportshub)

The Public-Private Partnership includes:



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