Teos’ historic dancesport podium sparks medal rush

By David Lee

In just two hours, siblings Jerome and Rachel Teo did not just waltz into the history books as the first Sin-
gaporean medallists at a SEA Games dancesport event, they also mounted the podium three times at the Royal Mandarin Clark yesterday.

Their first medal was a bronze in the standard waltz, as they fin-
ished behind the Philippines’ Mark Brown Coons and Mary Joy Bon-
gron and Vietnam’s Vu Hong Anh Minh and Nguyen Truong Tran.

Less than an hour later, the Na-
tional University of Singapore an-
dergraduates pocketed another bronze in the standard Viennese waltz behind the hosts’ Sean Mi-
cha Kwekler and Ada Liminotu Matzki Nusia and Vietnamese Nguyen Quang Hao and Nguyen Ho Hai Viet.

Minutes later, they were back on the dance floor and went on to take silver in the Viennese 1st position.

Their final medal was silver and finishing just 0.004 points behind the hosts.

Rachel, a 20-year-old Year 2 eco-
nomics student, said, “The first
bronze pushed us to get more.
Every medal means a lot and the
first one spurred me on to push harder for a better placing.”

“Eventually, in our third event, we got a silver. I’m so very proud of
the team. We have lots of thanks for
our family for sponsoring our over-
seas trips, to our coaches, teachers
and friends for their support.”

To prepare for these Games, the sibl-
inghs had to take time off school for numerous trips to train in Eu-
rope, two of which went without a
pause.

Jerome, 23, is in his final year of pur-
suing a double degree in electrical
engineering and economics. He said:
“Is it a very special experience?
While it’s not quite what we
expected to do, we are all

“MEDALS FOR EVERYONE”

We were not expecting
much but, of course, we
wanted to win a
medal. These medals
are not for us, but for
everyone who supported
us through our journey and devotion.

Rachel added: “But the
difficult thing is to have to
smile on the dance floor
when we are upset with each other.”

Singapore’s dancesport medal run continued in the afternoon, when Jerome Sim picked up a bronze in the men’s individual standard waltz and his twin sister
Shannee Sim also won bronze in the Latin American paso doble.

Broomport made its Games de-
but in the Philippines in 2005 but
was discontinued after the 2007 edition. Singapore won medals in five of the 12 events.