MOU to lend helping hand to S’pore sports

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SINGAPORE — To take sports to a higher level in the global arena. And even if international glory does not materialise, the foundation would have been laid and the Singapore sports scene will be richer for it.

That, in essence, is what the Singapore Management University (SMU) and the Singapore Sports Council (SSC) hope to achieve from the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed yesterday between the two parties.

As part of the MOU, a new sports elective — titled Principle of Coaching in Sports — will be launched at the SMU in August. The elective seeks to provide SMU undergraduates with the knowledge and skills to prepare them for the sports industry.

A Lifeskills Centre will also be established at the university to develop courses in sports-related skills, character building and community spirit development.

SSC CEO Lim Teck Yin noted that the MOU “will provide the opportunities for the students to play, train and develop through sports” — in line with the objectives of the Government’s Sporting Vision 2030 project.

Said Mr Lim: “At the end of the day, even if some of the promising athletes do not go on to win honours at international level, they would have gone through the process of knowing sports and enjoying it. It’s all right if they go on to become sports officials or even become volunteers later in life.”

SMU president Arnoud De Meyer reiterated that the university sees “a lot of synergy” between the Vision 2030 project and its “holistic model of education”. He said: “Our goals go beyond winning medals and scoring high grades. We both aim to nurture values and address the larger community’s genuine concern, which is to be ready with skills and knowledge to face future challenges.”