

Wearn Haw co-heads \$100k programme

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THE ABILITY to function individually, but also operate collectively – those are the traits Singapore Sailing Federation (SSF) chief executive Tan Wearn Haw hopes to find and develop in sailors here.

The Olympian was speaking on board the Audi ultra Super Maxi yacht in the Marina Bay area yesterday, after he was officially named the boat's co-skipper.

He said: "There's plenty of talent in Singapore... we are creating the opportunity for them to break into the world of professional sailing."

His co-skipper Ludde Ingvall, along with two other co-owners of the 30m-long boat, recently relocated the yacht from Australia in a partnership with the SSF to promote big boat sailing and to develop local sailors.

The programme is expected to cost about \$100,000 a year.

Tan is described as a "perfect candidate" to co-skipper the 30m-long yacht, having served as a navigator and strategist onboard the Sino-French America's Cup Challenger in 2007.

SSF president Ben Tan said: "Professional sailing is a key component of the sailing ecosystem, and the sport is fortunate that there is another world beyond the Olympics for sailors to aspire to.

"This is an area that SingaporeSailing does not intend to neglect. Ludde's vast experience and his systematic programme will help Singapore Sailing fast-track our progress into the world of professional and big boat racing."

While Tan will compete in selected regattas as part of this programme, he said his role would be largely a managerial one.

Joining Tan and Ingvall in the Audi ultra's management team are local sailors Yuri Siegel (crew boss) and Paul Khor (project manager, logistics).

The pilot big boat sailing programme will take place in two phases between now and December, and will include regattas such as the King's Cup in Phuket.



**JOINT
ROLE:** Audi
ultra Super
Maxi
co-skippers
Ludde Ingvall
(far left) and
Tan Wearn
Haw.

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Meanwhile, a team skippered by Singaporean Maximillian Soh, finished second in the three-day ISAF Grade 3 Match Race Thailand Kookaburra's Challenge at the Royal Varuna Yacht Club in Thailand.

Soh's team were beaten to the top spot by an Indian team, skippered by Ayaz Shaikh.