

Speech by DDBL
at the Prize Presentation Ceremony of Dragonboat Race in Eglisau
(26 June 2022)

Mr (Felix) Meier, Mr (Daniel) Schmid, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good evening. It is my privilege and great pleasure for the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Berlin to support the 30th edition of the Drachenbootrennen Eglisau to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the establishment of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region. This is an important milestone for our city as we set to surge towards a brighter future with the unwavering support of our Motherland. The principle of “One Country, Two Systems” has been the foundation of our governance since 1997, upholding our unique strengths and sustaining our success.

2. The 25th Anniversary’s theme of “A New Era – Stability, Prosperity and Opportunity” not only represents Hong Kong’s exemplary achievements over the past 25 years, but also underscores our eager anticipation for and confidence in a brighter future. Our Office is celebrating this special occasion by hosting and participating in a series of events ranging from exhibition, gala dinners, street food festival to film festivals. This dragon boat race is our first few large-scale sports and cultural events in celebration of the 25th Anniversary.

3. Dragon boat races have a long history which could date back to over 2000 years ago in China. While it may not be surprising to you all that this has been a long tradition in Hong Kong, you may not know that Hong Kong is where dragon boat races began as a modern international sport 46 years ago. The first Hong Kong International Races took place in 1976, an event recognised today as the start of the “modern era” of dragon boat as a sport. This Race later developed into an annual festival of enormous success and the dragon boat sport has gained its popularity around the world since then.

4. I feel honoured to share the joy and excitement with you in the beautiful city of Eglisau. It’s been a while since we could get together and I believe we are all very grateful to be back here again for the Dragon Boat Races after two years due to the pandemic. It is a pleasure to see how much sports fans and families enjoyed the thrilling competitions on the water, as well as culinary and musical highlights of the event.

5. I hope you had a chance to pass by our booth and get to know more about Hong Kong on various fronts during these two days. I wish to highlight some good news, which some of you might already be aware of. Starting from this April, the hotel quarantine period for travellers entering Hong Kong has been substantially shortened to seven days. And from last month onwards, non-Hong Kong residents who are fully vaccinated are able to enter Hong Kong again after more than two years. We very much look forward to welcoming you all in Hong Kong!

6. Last but not least, congratulations once again to all the winning teams for your outstanding performance and I hope all of you have enjoyed the races and friendships made during this memorable event.

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