

**Prize Presentation Ceremony of Dragon Boat Race in Berlin  
(3 September 2022)**

**Speech by DBL**

Mr (Stephan) Kubitz, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good evening. It is a privilege and great pleasure for the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Berlin to sponsor the 23<sup>rd</sup> Hongkong-Berlin CityCup. The sponsorship is part of our office's celebration programme for the 25th anniversary of the establishment of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, which marks an important milestone for our city as we set to surge towards a brighter future. Our Office is celebrating this special occasion by hosting and participating in a series of events under the theme of "A New Era – Stability, Prosperity and Opportunity", ranging from photo exhibition, gala dinners, dragon boat races, street food festival to film festivals across Central and Eastern Europe.

2. Dragon boat racing have a long history which could date back to over 2 000 years ago in China. However, it was not until 1976 that Hong Kong started revitalising it as a modern international sport and promoting it worldwide. That year, the Hong Kong Government staged the first Hong Kong International Races, an event recognised today as the start of the “modern era” of dragon boat racing 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 ever since.

3. Here comes a little trivia for you – do you know where the Berlin dragon boat race team took its first club trip in 1991? You guess it right – it is of course Hong Kong! This very trip inspired the team to start organising dragon boat events in Berlin. And here we are today – the “City Cup Berlin” is now taking place for the 23rd time and is a nationwide institution for this sport.

4. Apart from participating in the races or cheering on the side-line, I hope you had a chance to pass by our booth and get to know more about Hong Kong on various fronts today. As some of you might already be aware of, the hotel quarantine period for travellers entering Hong Kong has recently been substantially shortened to three days. Perhaps it is time to plan your trip to Hong Kong next year to join us at the Hong Kong International Dragon Boat Races!

5. Last but not least, congratulations once again to all the winning teams for your outstanding performance. It is always a pleasure to see how much sports fans and families enjoyed the thrilling competitions on the water. I hope all of you have enjoyed the adrenaline-inducing races and connections made during this memorable event.

– Ends –

*(~ 430 words; 4 minutes)*