

**Prize Presentation Ceremony of Dragon Boat Race in Berlin  
(9 September 2023)**

**Speech by Acting DBL**

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

Good afternoon. It is a privilege and great pleasure for the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Berlin to sponsor the Berlin CityCup once again.

2. Dragon boat racing has 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. Do you know where the Berlin dragon boat race team went on its first club trip in 1991? You guessed it: Hong Kong! This trip was in fact also the inspiration for dragon boat races in Berlin. And here we are today – the “Berlin CityCup” is now taking place for the 24<sup>th</sup> 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. Perhaps it is time to plan your trip to Hong Kong for traveling or to join the Hong Kong International Dragon Boat Races next year! We very much look forward to welcoming you all in Hong Kong!

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 friendships made during this memorable event.

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