

World Dragon Boat Racing Championships

(16 July 2025)

Speech by Acting D(BL)

Ladies and gentlemen, distinguished guests,

Good evening. It is my great pleasure to join you here today. I would first like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to the International Dragon Boat Federation for the invitation, and also organising this championships, which allows us to share the excitement and tradition of dragon boat racing.

2. You may be curious about the presence of Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office at today's event. I am delighted to share with you that the next World Championships will be held in Hong Kong in 2027. Hong Kong is a centre for major sports events. Every year, the Hong Kong International Dragon Boat Races draw thousands of athletes from across the globe, bringing together the world's top dragon boat competitors. The event is not only a thrilling competition but also a lively carnival, offering spectators the chance to fully immerse themselves in the festive spirit of the Dragon Boat Festival.

3. Indeed, Hong Kong is more than just an international financial center and trade hub. It is a dynamic city where East meets West and home to a multitude of mega events. The Hong Kong Government is committed to promoting the development of sports, including establishing Hong Kong as a center for major international sports events. We are proud of our world-

class sports resources. For instance, the Kai Tak Sports Park, which opened its doors in March, is Hong Kong's largest-ever sports infrastructure. It has already hosted several mega events, including the Hong Kong Rugby Sevens and concerts by international and local artists.

4. In Chinese culture, dragon symbolizes strength, courage, and resilience. Dragon boat racing brings together energy and teamwork, embodying the spirit of the dragon. I am thrilled to learn that this year's competition attracts over 4 950 athletes from 33 different countries and regions. A total of 5 teams from Hong Kong, comprising over 120 athletes, will participate in the championships. I hope all of you will enjoy the competition. Thank you and enjoy the event tonight!

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