

Prize Presentation Ceremony of Berlin CityCup

(5 July 2025)

Speech by Acting D(BL)

Stephan (Mr Stephan Kubitz, Spokesperson of the Berlin City),
distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen,

Good afternoon. It is a pleasure to join you all here today. In Chinese culture, dragon signifies strength, courage, and resilience. Dragon boat racers today, from diverse cultural backgrounds, have brought together energy and teamwork, and embodied the spirit of the dragon. I hope you have all enjoyed the competition today.

2. In case you are wondering the relationship between dragon boat racing and Hong Kong, let me start with a story on the Dragon Boat Festival originated in China. The tradition began in more than 2 000 years ago, honoring a respected patriotic poet called Qu Yuan, who drowned himself in river out of grief. Locals hit drums and splashed their paddles on boats to drive fish and evil spirits away from the poet. That was when the tradition of dragon boat racing began.

3. In Hong Kong, the Dragon Boat Festival is celebrated with great enthusiasm. Every year, a flagship mega event, the Hong Kong International Dragon Boat Races is held at the famous Victoria Harbour with flying colours. Thousands of the world's top dragon boat athletes showcased thrilling races. The promenade next to the harbour was transformed into a

lively carnival from day to night, offering locals and visitors festive atmosphere with a relaxing beer garden. Hong Kong also possesses world-class resources for sports lovers. With the opening of new Kai Tak Sports Park, Hong Kong's largest-ever state-of-the-art sports infrastructure, in this March, signature rugby event, Hong Kong Sevens, football matches and a series of mega international and local concerts have been held.

4. Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Berlin, which has sponsored the Berlin CityCup for 11 years, is glad to see dragon boat racing events flourish in Berlin and has become a platform for promoting cultural exchange and friendships between Hong Kong and German communities. Here, I would like to thank Stephan (Mr Stephan Kubitz) and the Berlin Dragon Boat Company for making the event possible.

5. Today, our Economic and Trade Office also set up a booth introducing the latest attractions of Hong Kong. Be sure to swing by before you leave for more information on what to see and do in Hong Kong.

6. Lastly, huge congratulations again to all the winning teams, and a big shout out to everyone who took part in the races today. Thanks again for coming and being a part of the event.

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