

Thousands come to join London Hong Kong Dragon Boat Festival 2009

SCED Mrs Rita Lau officiated as thousands enjoyed the London Hong Kong Dragon Boat Festival on London's River Thames and helped raise money for Chinese charities in London.
Mrs Lau

Londoners of all nationalities enjoyed the London Hong Kong Dragon Boat Festival 2009, which took place at the London Regatta Centre in the Royal Albert Dock on Sunday 28 June.

The event was organised by the London Chinatown Chinese Association, the London Chinatown Lions Club, and the Hong Kong Executives Club and is supported by the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office, London.

As well as a full day of racing involving 42 teams, the event raised money for five local Chinese community organisations.

Teams made up of rowers from corporate organisations and public sector organisations – many in fancy dress – competed in heats along the 200m course. Overall winner was Will Insurance who won the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office cup. Christine Li Solicitors came second, winning the Bank of East Asia cup and the Accenture Pirates came third, winning the SeeWoo Royal China Cup.

Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development, Mrs Rita Lau, said: "I am delighted to be here at the London Hong Kong Dragon Boat Festival and see so many people having fun and learning about Hong Kong.

"Hong Kong is a small place, but is a popular stage for world-class sporting events, like the Hong Kong Sevens and the equestrian events of the Beijing Olympics last year. This December we are going to host the 5th East Asian Games for the first time, and next year Hong Kong will have the honour of hosting the International Dragon Boat Festival - we look forward to welcoming UK boat teams and visitors for this great sporting event."

For spectators – and rowers between races – there was an afternoon of cultural performances including lion dancing, dragons, kung fu and live music, and food, market stalls and children's play area.

Public information about the London Hong Kong Dragon Boat Festival 2009 is available at www.lclc.co.uk