

**Press release from Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office London
2 July 2007**

London Hong Kong Dragon Boat Race Festival starts 10 year Anniversary celebrations in the UK

More than 5000 people came to London Docklands yesterday (1 July) to watch dragon boat teams compete in the 10th Anniversary London Hong Kong Dragon Boat Festival. Organised by the London Chinatown Lions Club and the London Chinatown Chinese Association and sponsored by the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office (HKETO), the Festival was held to celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the Establishment of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR).

Winner of the "Hong Kong 10th Anniversary Cup" was the team from Yi-Ban Restaurant situated at the Royal Albert Docks. Among the 24 teams competing were the UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office and UK Trade & Investment; the Hong Kong Tourism Board; the Chinese Embassy; HSBC; the GB Premier Womens' Team and a number of teams made up of dragon boat enthusiasts from around London.

Speaking at the traditional 'eye-dotting' opening ceremony in Royal Albert Docks, Sarah Wu, Director -General of the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office London said: "To hold this year's dragon boat festival as part of our celebration of the 10th anniversary means a lot to us. Dragon Boat racing is emblematic of the strength, energy and competitiveness that Hong Kong is renowned for.

"Since 1997, Hong Kong has gone from strength to strength, overcoming a number of unprecedented setbacks including the Asian financial crisis, avian flu, and SARS. Underpinned by the "One Country, Two Systems" principle, Hong Kong continues to thrive and prosper as Asia's world city, a centre for financial and professional services, trade, shipping and tourism."

In addition to the races there were colourful and vibrant dockside events; dragon and lion dances; stage show organised by TVB Chinese Channel; a children's play area; game stalls; gift stores; and authentic Chinese cuisine.

Yesterday's London Hong Kong Dragon Boat Festival is only the beginning of a series of events to be organised by the HKETO to mark the tenth anniversary. Young Hong Kong musicians will be performing in October in London, Newcastle and Glasgow. In Manchester, we have a film festival, a photo exhibition and an art exhibition. In London, we are planning for a seminar and a film event in October. A complete list of events is attached. There are many more 10th Anniversary events organised by local Chinese communities around the UK.

Later Ms Wu also spoke at a HKSAR 10th Anniversary Dinner organised by the London Confederation of Chinese Association. She said: "I take this opportunity to express to the Chinese community in the UK my deepest gratitude for their goodwill and unfailing support for Hong Kong, and the events they have been organising to celebrate our 10th Anniversary – ranging from chess contests and golf tournaments to dinners and essay competitions."

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2007 marks the 10th anniversary of the establishment of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region. In the coming months, the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in London will organise and support a series of events to promote and raise the profile of Hong Kong to celebrate the 10th anniversary.

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| Jun – Jul | <p>‘Made in Hong Kong’ Film Season
 Cornerhouse, Manchester, UK
 http://www.cornerhouse.org/film/</p> |
| Jun 30 –
Sep 30 | <p>Art Exhibition
 ‘The Pivotal Decade: Hong Kong Art 1997-2007’
 Chinese Arts Centre, Manchester, UK
 www.chinese-arts-centre.org</p> |
| Until
Jul 18 | <p>Art Exhibition
 ‘Arrivals and Departures: New Perspectives of Hong Kong’
 Urbis, Manchester, UK (www.urbis.org.uk)</p> |
| Sep 25-28 | <p>Hong Kong Week in Russia
 Moscow and St. Petersburg, Russia</p> |
| Mid - Oct | <p>Conference on Hong Kong
 Chatham House, London, UK</p> |
| Oct 15 | <p>Photo Exhibition on Hong Kong
 At gala dinner of the Hong Kong Trade Development Council, London, UK</p> |
| Oct 24 | <p>Concert by Hong Kong musicians
 Cadogan Hall, London, UK</p> |
| Oct 27 | <p>Piano recital by Colleen Lee
 Sibelius Academy, Helsinki, Finland</p> |
| Oct 29 | <p>Piano recital by Colleen Lee
 Royal Concert Hall, Glasgow, UK</p> |
| Oct 31 | <p>Piano recital by Colleen Lee
 The Sage, Newcastle, UK</p> |
| Nov 10 | <p>Hong Kong entry to the Lord Mayor’s Show
 London, UK</p> |