

London Hong Kong Dragon Boat Festival 2008

Opening remarks by Miss Sarah Wu, Director-General of Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office, London at Ceremony on 8 June, 12:15 p.m.

- HKETO, London is pleased to be the principal sponsor of this year's London Hong Kong Dragon Boat Festival.
- Dragon boat racing has become a popular sports competition all around the world since Hong Kong started the first international dragon boat festival three decades ago. Sport is a major point of interest for Hong Kong this year as we are hosting the equestrian events for the 2008 Beijing Olympics in August – and we eagerly look forward to welcoming visitors from all around the world and particularly the UK for these ground-breaking games in Hong Kong. To hold this year's dragon boat festival in this Olympic year means a lot to us. One day perhaps dragon boat racing may become an Olympic sport too.
- 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.
- We are proud of our multi-cultural, multi-national and multi-religious community living in harmony. We shall continue to strive for progress and excellence.
- I would like to thank the London Chinatown Lions Club, London Chinatown Chinese Association, the Hong Kong Executive Club and Spectrum Radio for their hard work and devotion in organising this event. I also thank the many sponsors who so generously support the dragon boat festival, and Sing Tao for co-organising the photo contest with us, and the sponsors, volunteers and participating teams who make this event possible.. But above all I wish you all a good, fun-filled, exciting day. Please take a few minutes to visit our booth to find out more about Hong Kong today.
- Have fun, take photos and submit the very best ones for the photo contest. And good luck to all the teams taking part!

Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office, London
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