



**Immediate Release  
To Sports Editors & Reporters**

## **Opening Ceremony Kicks-Off 2019 World Rowing Coastal Championships presented by Dah Sing Bank**

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### **500 Local and Overseas Top Rowers to Compete at Victoria Harbour Hong Kong Team Taking on International Elite Rowers at home**

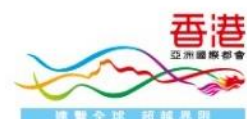
(Hong Kong, 30 October 2019) The 2019 World Rowing Coastal Championships presented by Dah Sing Bank (WRCC) is officially kicked-off today with an opening ceremony held at the World Champ Square in Central. The President of World Rowing Federation (FISA) and Chairman of The Hong Kong, China Rowing Association (HKCRA) introduced the participating teams and race details at the Opening Ceremony. As the first time hosting in Asia, the WRCC this year receives positive response with around 500 local and overseas rowers from 29 countries and regions set to compete at the Victoria Harbour this weekend, 1-3 November 2019.

At today's Opening Ceremony, Mr. Jean-Christophe Rolland, President of FISA, Mr. Chan Jick Chi, Jack, JP, Under Secretary for Home Affairs, Ms. Phoebe Wong, Senior Executive Director & Head of Retail Banking of Dah Sing Bank Limited, Mr. Mike Tanner, Chairman of both the Organising Committee of 2019 World Rowing Coastal Championships and HKCRA were all present as officiating guests.

#### **500 top athletes row in the city to compete for world championships**

The 2019 WRCC is first held in Asia since its inaugurated version back in 2007. There are around 500 top rowers from 29 countries and regions, including but not limited to Germany, Italy, France and Spain, are set to compete in Hong Kong. Amongst the list, the reigning Coastal Men's Solo champion Eduardo Linares Ruiz, as well as Coastal Mixed Double Sculls champions, Dutch pair Janneke van der Meulen and Mitchel Steenman will strive to defend their gold medals in Hong Kong. Hong Kong's Rowing Team will send 23 rowers, including the gold medalist from the latest Asian Rowing Championships, Mr. Chiu Hin Chun, to race against the world champions.

The 2019 WRCC consists of seven categories, including Coastal Men's and Women's Solo, Coastal Men's and Women's Double Sculls, Coastal Men's and Women's Quad Coxed Sculls and Coastal Mixed Double Sculls. Any race shall be contested by a maximum of 16 boats simultaneously. The race course is set at the





Victoria Harbour, stretching from the Royal Hong Kong Yacht Club (RHKYC) at Causeway Bay, to the Hong Kong Convention Centre and Central Pier No. 9 & 10. The course for all heats and classification races will be 4 km long, while the course for all medal races is 6 km.

### Embrace Row 'n' Rock spirit with the public and spectators

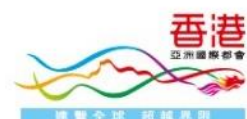
With the theme “Let’s Row ‘n’ Rock”, the Organising Committee has organised the “World Champ Festival” at the World Champ Square, at which educational exhibitions is placed to foster public’s understanding of coastal rowing and to raise their awareness about protecting the oceans, while designated areas will be drawn up for fans to experience rowing, and all activities are free of charge.

### Full support from all walks of life as the Championships approach

“We are pleased to be holding the World Rowing Coastal Championships in Hong Kong. The venue, the iconic Victoria Harbour is an ideal location. Being in the heart of Hong Kong, the vibrancy of the city matches the excitement of coastal rowing. Asia holds much potential for the future of our sport and for coastal rowing as we see it’s increasing popularity. This year’s World Rowing Coastal Championships will be another step in coastal rowing being considered for inclusion at the 2024 Olympic Games.,” said Mr. Jean-Christophe Rolland, President of FISA.

Speaking at the WRCC Opening Ceremony, Ms. Phoebe Wong, Senior Executive Director & Head of Retail Banking of Dah Sing Bank, Limited said, “As presenting sponsor, we are excited to see so many of the world’s top rowing athletes taking part in this event. We have no doubt that the challenge and exhilaration of rowing in the Victoria Harbour will bring out the best performances of these outstanding athletes. Furthermore, we believe that the competitive spirit, fierce teamwork and passion for excellence of this international rowing event will help inspire Hong Kong’s young people to realise their talents, overcome challenges and capture opportunities for a better tomorrow.”

“The race course comes to within easy spectating distance of these Central Piers and shoreline, bringing the Race into the City and providing spectators and the public with a wonderful close-up view of coastal rowing at its world best.” said Mr. Mike Tanner, Chairman of both the 2019 WRCC Organising Committee and HKCRA. He added that it is the honour the 2019 WRCC being recognised as an “M” Mark event, and that helps promote Hong Kong’s image as Asia’s sports hub. The “M” Mark awarded by the Major Sports Events Committee, symbolising intense, spectacular and signature event in the territory sports calendar.





Presented by Dah Sing Bank, the event is also supported by the RHKYC as the Venue & Delivery Partner and Lead-up & Legacy Partner, as well as The Tung Foundation as education programme sponsor. Other supporting partners include “Star” Ferry, the Hong Kong Maritime Museum and the WWF.

During the Championships, all medal races will be broadcasted live at [www.worldrowing.com](http://www.worldrowing.com), the World Rowing Federation and the 2019 World Coastal Rowing Championships official website will also provide start lists, race schedules, as well as photos and news stories.

For more information about 2019 WRCC, please visit the following link at <http://www.worldrowing.com/events/2019-world-rowing-coastal-championships/event-information>.

### **About The World Rowing Federation (FISA)**

The World Rowing Federation, FISA (from the French, Fédération Internationale des Sociétés d’Aviron) is the governing body of the sport of rowing. It is empowered by its 155 member National Rowing Federations, the National Olympic Committees and the International Olympic Committee to govern the sport of rowing.

FISA sets the rules and regulations for the practice of the sport, in all its forms including elite, para-rowing, coastal, masters and aspects of indoor rowing. FISA oversees sanctioned World Rowing events and provides advice and expertise for the organisation of rowing regattas. The Federation also works on coaching education and other matters relating to the sport and its development.

### **About Hong Kong China Rowing Association (HKCRA)**

The Hong Kong China Rowing Association (HKCRA) was established in 1978 and is the governing body for the sport of rowing in Hong Kong. It is affiliated to the Sports Federation & Olympic Committee of Hong Kong, China, and to the Asian Rowing Federation (ARF) and World Rowing Federation (FISA).

The HKCRA operates two rowing centres adjoining the Shing Mun River in Sha Tin. They are Sha Tin Rowing Centre and Jockey Club Shek Mun Rowing Centre, located at Fo Tan and at Shek Mun respectively. Most Hong Kong rowing clubs are based at these two Centres for regular training and competition. Sha Tin Rowing





Centre also serves as the official headquarters and administrative offices of the Association.

The HKCRA has entitled and organised different types of promotion and development programmes and activities including Youth Development Programme, Para-rowing Programme, Indoor Rowing for Schools Programme and Coastal rowing activities, aiming to expand the sport of rowing at community level for different people with the ultimate goal to achieve rowing for all.

### **About Dah Sing Bank**

Dah Sing Bank, Limited is a wholly owned subsidiary of Dah Sing Banking Group (HKG:2356) which is listed on the Hong Kong Stock Exchange. Founded in Hong Kong over 70 years ago, Dah Sing Bank has been providing quality banking products and services to our customers with a vision to be “The Local Bank with a Personal Touch”. Over the years, the Bank has been rigorous in delivering on our brand promise to grow with our customers in Hong Kong, the Greater Bay Area and beyond – “***Together We Progress and Prosper***”. Building on our experience and solid foundation in the industry, the Bank’s scope of professional services now spans retail banking, private banking, business and commercial banking, with 45 branches operating throughout Hong Kong. Meanwhile, the Bank is also making significant investments in our digital banking capabilities to stay abreast with smart banking developments in Hong Kong and to support financial inclusion at large.

In addition to its Hong Kong banking operations, Dah Sing Bank also has wholly owned subsidiaries including Dah Sing Bank (China) Limited, Banco Comercial de Macau, and OK Finance Limited. It is also a strategic shareholder of Bank of Chongqing with a shareholding of about 15%.

