





For Immediate Release

Standard Chartered Hong Kong Marathon 2015 Over 100 elite international runners gear up for battle

- Featuring the 15th Asian Marathon Championships for the fourth year, attracting approximately 30 elite Asian runners.
- Women's Champions of the Standard Chartered Hong Kong Marathon 2014 return to defend her title

[23 January 2015, Hong Kong] The 19th Standard Chartered Hong Kong Marathon will take place on Sunday, 25 January, with the 15th Asian Marathon Championships being held concurrently. Over 100 elite international runners will gather in Hong Kong for the race. The stellar lineup includes defending Women's Marathon champion Robele, Rehima Kedir from Ethiopia, as well as approximately 30 elite Asian runners for the 15th Asian Marathon Championships.

This year the battle for the Standard Chartered Hong Kong Marathon is expected to be more enthralling than ever, as a record-high number of 30 gold label runners will be aiming to wrestle the title. Among them is Kipchumba, Mariko Kiplagat from Kenya, as well as Ethiopia runner Mekonnen, Sisay Jisa. In the women's category there are strong competitors from Ethiopia and Kenya as usual, while North Korean runner Kim Mi Gyong. With a personal best time of 2:26:31, is not to be underestimated. Elite local runners, including Lai Ho Ki and Yiu Kit Ching, will also strive to make Hong Kong proud.

During the elite athletes welcome reception today, Mr. Kwan Kee, Chairman of the Hong Kong Amateur Athletic Association said, "This year, the Standard Chartered Hong Kong Marathon will feature the Asian Marathon Championships for the fourth time. Elite runners from 14 Asian countries and regions will join the marathon this year. With over 100 overseas athletes competing, we will have a record breaking number of international participants on Sunday. To enable runners to deliver their best, we have further optimised some of the race arrangements. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all international and local runners for their support, and wish them the very best of luck this year."

Deputy Secretary for Home Affairs, Mr. Jonathan McKinley, said, "The Standard Chartered Hong Kong Marathon is without doubt the most popular sporting event in Hong Kong in terms of public participation. I greatly appreciate the efforts of the Hong Kong Amateur Athletics Association and the support of Standard Chartered Bank (Hong Kong) Ltd in ensuring that this event is consistently organised to the highest standard. This year, runners will have the opportunity to race down Hennessy Road and through other main streets of Causeway Bay before reaching the finish line in Victoria Park. This change in the route will improve the environment for competitors and give more spectators the chance to enjoy the excitement of the race."









The Standard Chartered Hong Kong Marathon 2015 has been designated as a Brand Hong Kong event by the HKSAR government. Sponsors of the Standard Chartered Hong Kong Marathon 2015 include Standard Chartered Bank (Hong Kong) Limited, the Western Harbour Tunnel Company, Xtep International Holdings Limited, Citizen Watches (H.K.) Ltd, Watsons Water, Regal Hotels International, POAD Group Limited, F&H BY FANCL, GP Batteries International Limited, Mars Foods Incorporated SNICKERS chocolate, BMW Concessionaires (HK) Ltd, KRISCA The Nuts Specialist, and Hong Kong Broadband Network Limited. Supporting organizations include the Hong Kong Tourism Board, the Major Sports Events Committee, Transport Infrastructure Management, the Leisure and Cultural Services Department, and the Information Services Department.

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About the Standard Chartered Hong Kong Marathon www.hkmarathon.com

The Standard Chartered Hong Kong Marathon is Hong Kong's largest participatory annual sporting event, organized by the HKAAA. With first title sponsorship in 1997, Standard Chartered Bank (Hong Kong) Ltd will celebrate its 19th year as title sponsor with the 2015 event.

Standard Chartered also sponsors marathons in nine other cities globally, including Taipei, Singapore, Mumbai, Nairobi, Kuala Lumpur, Bangkok, Dubai, Stanley (Falkland Islands) and Jersey.

