

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Overseas and Local Elite Runners Ready to Face Off During Standard Chartered Hong Kong Marathon 2018

[HONG KONG, 19 January 2018] – With the Standard Chartered Hong Kong Marathon 2018 now only two days away, a group of over 30 overseas runners have arrived in Hong Kong with more than half of them having qualified as International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF) Gold Label runners. Together with these overseas elites, local star runners are also ready to show their calibre on race day!

To welcome the elite marathon runners to Hong Kong, the event Organiser hosted a reception for them today, during which Mr. Yeung Tak Keung, JP, Commissioner for Sports, Home Affairs Bureau, and other dignitaries wished them the best of luck and invited everyone to come out on race day, cheer the runners on and experience the excitement of the marathon.

This year's star lineup includes the champions of both the Men's and Women's Standard Chartered Hong Kong Marathon 2017 races, with Ethiopia's Mr. Melaku Belachew Bizuneh and Ms. Gulume Tolessa Chala returning to defend their titles. The runners have been acclimatising to local conditions over the past few days to prepare for this IAAF Gold Label Road Race.

Mr. Kwan Kee, Chairman of the Hong Kong Amateur Athletic Association, said, "I would like to take this opportunity to extend a warm welcome to all overseas elite athletes who have come from different parts of the world to join the Marathon this year. The Hong Kong marathon route is known to be unique and challenging, I hope all the runners will challenge themselves and enjoy running in this energetic city on race day!"

Mr. Esmond Mok, Regional Head of Corporate Affairs & Brand and Marketing, Greater China and North Asia of Standard Chartered Bank (Hong Kong) Limited, said, "Witnessing the Standard Chartered Hong Kong Marathon evolve from a local race into an IAAF Gold Label Road Race, we are delighted to see a group of international elite runners gather together for a world-class road race every year. I wish all the runners the best of luck in achieving their personal best this Sunday - Together, We Run Further!"

The Standard Chartered Hong Kong Marathon 2018 has been designated a Brand Hong Kong event by the HKSAR Government. Other sponsors of the Standard Chartered Hong Kong Marathon 2018 include: the Western Harbour Tunnel Company Limited; Nike Hong Kong; Citizen Watches (H.K.) Limited; Watsons Water; POAD Group Limited; GP Batteries International Limited; Mars Foods Incorporated (Snickers); BMW Concessionaires (HK) Limited; InterContinental Grand Stanford Hong Kong; DKSH Hong Kong Limited (Salonpas); DeLonghi Kenwood APA Limited (Kenwood); Luk Fook Jewellery and General Mills – Hong Kong (Nature Valley). Supporting organisations include: the Hong Kong Tourism Board; MTR Corporation Limited; TIML MOM Limited; the Leisure and Cultural Services Department; and the Information Services Department.



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, organised by the HKAAA. With first title sponsorship in 1997, Standard Chartered Bank (Hong Kong) Limited will celebrate its 22nd year as title sponsor with the 2018 Event.

Standard Chartered also sponsors marathons in 7 other cities globally including Taipei, Singapore, Nairobi, Kuala Lumpur, Dubai, Stanley (Falkland Islands), and Jersey.

Standard Chartered Hong Kong Marathon 2018 has been recognised as an “M” Mark event that helps enhance the image of Hong Kong as Asia’s sports event capital. The “M” Mark awarded by the Major Sports Events Committee, symbolising intense, spectacular and signature event in the territory sports calendar.