



香港業餘田徑總會
Hong Kong Amateur Athletic Association



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Standard Chartered Hong Kong Marathon 2016 Extends Route to Mong Kok for the First Time

*Athletes from Kenya and Ethiopia win
Men's and Women's Marathons respectively*

HONG KONG, 17 January 2016 – The Standard Chartered Hong Kong Marathon 2016, which celebrated its 20th anniversary this year, finished today, marking the successful conclusion to this highly-anticipated annual event. The Marathon and the Half Marathon featured a new route, with the highlight being an extended section along major thoroughfare Nathan Road in Kowloon, a first; this iconic and bustling street is steeped in local flavour. Crowds of spectators thronged the designated cheering zones, encouraging runners with enthusiastic cheers and chants, raising the event's energy level even higher. As runners crossed the finish line in Victoria Park amidst great fanfare, the marathon spirit and a wave of positive energy swept and was felt across the city.

16 Gold Label runners sprang into action on Nathan Road as the Honourable Mrs. Carrie Lam Cheng Yuet-ngor, GBS, JP, Chief Secretary for Administration of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region ("HKSAR") officiated the starting ceremony, kicking off the Marathon Challenge.

The competition see-sawed in the Men's Marathon until Mike Mutai Kiprotich from Kenya broke away from the pack to take the lead, finally crossing the finish line amidst thunderous applause from the crowd. With a time of 2:12:12, he won the Men's Marathon and US\$65,000 in prize money. When asked about his performance, he said, "This was my first time competing in Hong Kong and even though there were some tough parts in the course, I had a great time. I want to come back to race again next year."

Hong Kong athletes also achieved great results this year, with Tsui Chi Kin taking first place among local runners in the Men's Marathon, with a time of 2:31:32. He attributed his success today to the fact that he became a full time runner this year; and he was very satisfied with his performance today.

In the Women's Marathon, Haylay Letebrhan Gebreslasea from Ethiopia broke away from other contestants and crossed the finish line with a time of 2:36:51, taking first place. "I'm blown away by my first marathon win, especially since I came in fourth last year, and more importantly, I learnt a lot more about my abilities and strategy when it comes to racing, which are invaluable," said Gebreslasea. Following closely was Christy Yiu Kit-Ching, the local champion, who finished in 6th place with a time of



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2:38:38. When asked about her performance, she said, “I had a great race today even though I didn’t break my personal best. This was the first time I was part of the lead pack and in terms of learnings, it was amazing. I can’t wait until next year!”

Li Shao Zhuang of Mainland China won the Men’s Half Marathon with a time of 1:10:34, while Tabal Mary Joy from the Philippines took first place in the Women’s Half Marathon with a time of 1:21:41.

In the Men’s division of the 10KM race, it was a close contest with Martin Jack of the United Kingdom finishing first with a time of 31:45. In the Women’s division, Kate Rutherford from the United Kingdom took first place at 39:18.

Mr. Kwan Kee, Chairman of the Hong Kong Amateur Athletic Association, said, “We would like to express our sincere gratitude to the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government and also to the entire Hong Kong community for their unfailing support. The Standard Chartered Hong Kong Marathon was upgraded to Gold Label Road Race Status by the IAAF this year, a significant milestone. The new route also gave runners a rare opportunity to race along major Kowloon artery Nathan Road, for the first time ever. Along the way, they were greeted by the cheers and chants of enthusiastic spectators, which gave runners extra energy, with wave after wave of excitement sweeping the crowds. We will continue to build on our successes and to improve the race for runners in the future.”

Ms. May Tan, Chief Executive Officer, Standard Chartered Bank (Hong Kong) Limited, said, “It has been a great honour for Standard Chartered Bank (Hong Kong) to contribute to and witness the development of the Standard Chartered Hong Kong Marathon over the past two decades. During today’s race, I was deeply impressed by the athletes’ determination to excel and to live up to the marathon spirit. We look forward to continuing to work with the Hong Kong Amateur Athletic Association to bring positive energy to our community through the Standard Chartered Hong Kong Marathon.”

The Standard Chartered Hong Kong Marathon is committed to serving the community and supports different charitable causes. Funds raised from the Marathon will, as with previous years, go to the following three charitable institutions or initiatives: “Seeing is Believing”, Standard Chartered’s global initiative with ORBIS to eliminate avoidable blindness; the Hong Kong Anti-Cancer Society; and the Hong Kong Paralympic Committee & Sports Association for the Physically Disabled.

The Standard Chartered Hong Kong Marathon 2016 was designated a Brand Hong Kong event by the HKSAR Government. Other sponsors of the Standard Chartered Hong Kong Marathon 2016 included: the Western Harbour Tunnel Company Limited, Xtep International Holdings Limited, Citizen Watches (H.K.) Limited, Watsons Water, POAD Group Limited, F&H BY FANCL, GP Batteries International Limited, Mars



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Foods Incorporated (Snickers), BMW Concessionaires (HK) Limited, InterContinental Grand Stanford Hong Kong, DKSH Hong Kong Limited (Salonpas), and Delonghi Kenwood APA Limited (Kenwood). Supporting organisations included: the Hong Kong Tourism Board, the Major Sports Events Committee, TIML MOM Limited, 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, organised by the Hong Kong Amateur Athletic Association ("HKAAA"). With the first title sponsorship in 1997, Standard Chartered Bank (Hong Kong) Limited will celebrate its 20th year as title sponsor with the 2016 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.