



press release

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## **STANDARD CHARTERED HONG KONG MARATHON EXPO OPENS TODAY**

*Two-day programme kicks off with announcement of additional prize money and appearance by renowned athletes ahead of the Standard Chartered Hong Kong Marathon 2009 on 8 February*

**[Hong Kong, 31 January 2009]:** Local competitors in next week's Standard Chartered Hong Kong Marathon have been given a surprise boost with the announcement today of a "Standard Chartered Marathon Savings Accounts" prize of HK\$30,000 for the top local men and women's runners.

The award was announced today at the Marathon Expo at Victoria Park by Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer of Standard Chartered Bank (Hong Kong) Limited, Mr Benjamin Hung, who presented a giant ceremonial cheque to Mr Alex Moh, President of the Hong Kong Amateur Athletic Association, symbolizing the award.

Making the announcement, Mr Hung said, "It's great to witness such a large turnout for the Marathon Expo and to see Hong Kong really come together behind the race. We hope that by pledging the HK\$30,000 savings accounts to the top local runners, we can encourage even greater participation in the Marathon in the years to come, and continue to foster a healthy living and a winning spirit."

The announcement kicked off the opening of the two-day Standard Chartered Hong Kong Marathon Expo 2009, a fun-filled programme including appearances by Beijing Paralympics marathon champion Mr Qi Shun, stage performances, sponsors' booths and a "games zone". The event takes place today and tomorrow (January 31 and February 1) at Victoria Park's Central Lawn in Causeway Bay.

Mr Hung and Mr Moh were joined on stage by Mr William Ko, Chairman, Organizing Committee of the Standard Chartered Hong Kong Marathon 2009; Mr Kwan Kee, Chairman, Hong Kong Amateur Athletic Association; Mr Henry Wanyoike, International Goodwill Ambassador for Seeing is Believing, a Greatest Race on Earth (GROE) All-Star team member and Paralympics champion; his guide Mr Joseph Kibunja; Mr Qi Shun, who is also a GROE All-Star team member and world record holder; and the cheering mascots. They unrolled a series of scrolls, each with a single Chinese character, that together read "The Race that Unites Hong Kong."

**全城一心 令盛事更盛**  
The Race that Unites Hong Kong

Mr Moh said, "Running is an inclusive activity that almost anyone can enjoy, and this is what makes the Standard Chartered Hong Kong Marathon such a great event for Hong Kong to support. Whether you are racing next week or not, we encourage everyone in Hong Kong to come to the Marathon Expo, to experience the joys of running and to cheer on next week's competitors."

Following the ceremony, over 50 children from the Marathon 101 Education Programme participated at the Mini Marathon, where children ran alongside Henry, Joseph and Qi on an abbreviated 140 meter course.

As well as being a great day out for enthusiasts and families, the Marathon Expo will also include fun performances.

Tomorrow (February 1), from 12 noon-3pm, Expo organisers will host a "Marathon 101 Cheering Team Competition." Then, from 3:15-4:00pm, Commercial Radio will host an "881903 DJ Cheering Show" in support of all the runners in the Standard Chartered Hong Kong Marathon 2009, featuring several artists, including Dik Tat, Louis Cheung, Takki Wong, Percy Fan and Square.

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Released on behalf of Standard Chartered Bank (Hong Kong) Limited by GolinHarris.

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