



For immediate release

First Batch of Hong Kong 2009 East Asian Games Volunteers Begin Their Training Programme

(13 December 2008, Hong Kong) With less than a year to go to the Opening Ceremony of the Hong Kong 2009 East Asian Games (EAG), the organisers of the Games' Volunteer Programme have already recruited about 1,300 volunteers and 500 of them attended their first day of training today.

The EAG Volunteers Programme has received a tremendous response from the public since it was launched on 24 May. Around 11,000 people had submitted their applications up to 30 November, and approximately 1,300 of them have been appointed as volunteer leaders or members. About 50% of the appointed volunteers are students and 40% are with employment; and over 70% have previous experience in various types of voluntary work.

The Hon. Timothy FOK, GBS, JP, Chairman of the 5th East Asian Games Planning Committee, Mr. Vincent LIU, JP, Deputy Director of Leisure and Cultural Services (Leisure Services), and Mr. LEE Jark-pui, SBS, OBE, JP, Chairman of Agency for Volunteer Service, also attended today's kick-off of the volunteer training. They gave the trainee volunteers some words of encouragement in the languages and dialects of the countries and regions that will participate in the Games.

Mr. FOK said the the 5th EAG Planning Committee are pleased that the EAG Volunteer Programme receives fantastic support from the local community. "Hong Kong's volunteers worked very well and professionally in the 2008 Beijing Olympics and Equestrian Events in August. They were highly praised by the community, athletes, and visitors from around the world. I hope Hong Kong people will keep on the selfless spirit to give, assist and together we make the Hong Kong 2009 East Asian Games a success," he added.

Ms. Flora CHUNG, CEO of Agency for Volunteer Service, Co-organiser of the Hong Kong 2009 East Asian Games Volunteer Programme, revealed that the appointed volunteers are with good quality. “Around 20% of them have had some previous experience as volunteers at large-scale sports events, including the 2008 Beijing Olympics and Equestrian Events. We believe their knowledge and experience will greatly benefit the Hong Kong 2009 East Asian Games”.

Mr. LEE encouraged all the volunteers to equip themselves for challenges ahead. “After they have completed their training, they will be assigned to different positions. From there, they will accumulate different kinds of experience. I am sure that all the volunteers will best grasp these opportunities to equip and make themselves ready for the mission next year,” he said.

One volunteer, Ms. MENG Hui-yan, commented that she felt very excited when she knew that she was accepted as a volunteer member of the Games. “I hope I can learn more on the skills to organise and stage a big-scaled sports event. I am proud of myself for being a member of the volunteer team, and treasure the chance to witness such momentous event in Hong Kong’s history.”

A volunteer leader, Mr LEE Yen-hung, explained that it was the first time he has been appointed as a volunteer for such a large-scale event. “I will try my best to lead my team of volunteers and be a good and effective leader”, he declared.

The volunteer training will continue until November next year. It consists series of generic training, specific training and volunteer leadership and management training.

The Games plan to recruit a total 3,200 volunteers. Registration to the Volunteer Programme can be done until 15 January 2009 through the Hong Kong 2009 East Asian Games Volunteer Programme website: www.2009eastasiangames.hk/volunteer. Don’t miss the opportunity to contribute yourselves and be part of the legend. For detailed information, please contact the Programme Office at 2200 5720.

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