



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **Record number of elite international runners arriving for Standard Chartered Hong Kong Marathon 2026**

**Hong Kong, 16 January 2026** – The Standard Chartered Hong Kong Marathon 2026, scheduled for this Sunday, 18 January, is fast approaching. The event will bring together a host of elite international runners, including 45 top athletes from six countries and regions, among whom five men and five women are World Athletics Gold Label athletes hailing from Kenya, Ethiopia and Bahrain. This figure is almost double last year's, marking a record high for the event and reflecting the appeal of the Standard Chartered Hong Kong Marathon as an "M" Mark recognised event.

The organiser introduced many of this year's elite international and local runners during a press conference held today at the Standard Chartered Hong Kong Marathon Expo. They included the champion of the 2025 men's marathon, Bethwell Kipkemboi Rutto from Kenya, who returns to Hong Kong to defend his title; Shitaye Eshete H. Habte from Bahrain, also a World Athletics Gold Label runner; and last year's overall local women's marathon champion, Virginia Lo, alongside the first runner-up in the local men's marathon category, Chong See Yeung. A number of esteemed guests also attended to offer the runners their encouragement, including **Mr George Tsoi Kin-pan, JP, Commissioner for Sports of the Culture, Sports and Tourism Bureau; Mr Kwan Kee, Chairman of the Hong Kong, China Association of Athletics Affiliates (HKAAA) and Chairman of the SCHKM 2026 Organising Committee; and Ms Gabriel Kwan, Head of Corporate Affairs and Brand & Marketing, Hong Kong & Taiwan, Standard Chartered.**

**Mr Kwan Kee, Chairman of the HKAAA and Chairman of the SCHKM 2026 Organising Committee**, said, "This year, we are honoured to have runners who are ranked among the top 100 in the world participating in the Standard Chartered Hong Kong Marathon 2026. Their entries will provide Hong Kong athletes with the opportunity to run against top-tier talent, thereby raising the overall level of long-distance running in Hong Kong."

**Ms Gabriel Kwan, Head of Corporate Affairs and Brand & Marketing, Hong Kong & Taiwan, Standard Chartered**, remarked, "The SCHKM has achieved new highs in both overall registrations and international runner participation this year – demonstrating the event's burgeoning appeal. At the same time, the positive impact of the marathon economy has extended beyond the race course and into the community. This year's 'Support Small Businesses, Cheer on the City' campaign, for example, which focuses on the local food and beverage sector, has seen the number of participating outlets increase from 500 to more than 700."

The Standard Chartered Hong Kong Marathon 2026 is proud to be an "M" Mark event, helping enhance the image of Hong Kong as Asia's mega event capital. The "M" Mark, awarded by the Major Sports Events Committee, symbolises intense, spectacular and signature events in the territory's sports calendar.

With Standard Chartered Bank (Hong Kong) Ltd. as the title sponsor, the Standard Chartered Hong



Kong Marathon 2026 is also sponsored by adidas Hong Kong Limited, Thong Sia Watch Co., Ltd, A.S. Watson Group (HK) Ltd., POAD MEDIA Limited, GP Batteries International Limited, Inchcape Hong Kong Limited (Crown Motors Limited), Regal Hotels International, Hisamitsu Pharmaceutical (Hong Kong) Co., Limited, Otsuka Pharmaceutical (H.K.) Ltd., Shiseido Hong Kong Limited, Shun Hing Group, Hengan Pharmacare Co., Ltd., Kao (Hong Kong) Ltd, WL Centralin (HK) Co., Limited, GARMIN, Pocari Sweat and China Mobile. Supporting organisations include the Information Services Department, Hong Kong Tourism Board, Leisure and Cultural Services Department and TIML MOM Limited.

For high-resolution photos, please refer to the link here: <https://shorturl.at/98NGV>



**Photo 1**

Distinguished guests gather on the main stage of the Standard Chartered Hong Kong Marathon Expo to wish success to all runners.

Pictured (from left): Mr Kwan Kee, Chairman of the Hong Kong, China Association of Athletics Affiliates (HKAAA) and Chairman of the Organising Committee of SCHKM 2026; Ms Gabriel Kwan, Head of Corporate Affairs and Brand & Marketing, Hong Kong & Taiwan, Standard Chartered; Mr George Tsoi Kin-pan, Commissioner for Sports of the Culture, Sports and Tourism Bureau; Dr David Mong, President of the HKAAA; and Mr Lui Kam Ho, Vice-President of the HKAAA.



**Photo 2**

A record 45 elite international runners from six countries and regions will participate in SCHKM 2026. This formidable group includes 10 World Athletics Gold Label runners from Kenya, Ethiopia and Bahrain, all of whom attended the press conference.



**Photo 3**

(From right): Leading elite international runners Bethwell Kipkemboi Rutto and Shitaye Eshete H. Habte as well as elite local runners Virginia Lo and Chong See Yeung shared their aspirations and preparations for the race.



Photo 4

A group of elite international runners toured the Standard Chartered Hong Kong Marathon Expo, exploring its exhibitor booths and posing at its many photo spots. Their visit also showcased the vibrant fusion of sports and entertainment at the mega sporting event.

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### About the Standard Chartered Hong Kong Marathon

The Standard Chartered Hong Kong Marathon, organised by the Hong Kong, China Association of Athletics Affiliates, is Hong Kong's largest participatory annual sporting event, attracting over 78,000 local and overseas participants each year. Standard Chartered has been the title sponsor since the first Standard Chartered Hong Kong Marathon in 1997 and also sponsors marathons in seven other cities globally, including Hanoi, Jersey, Kuala Lumpur, Nairobi, Singapore, Stanley and Taipei as well as a 10km run in Shanghai and a 5km run in London.