

Opening Ceremony
Hong Kong Open Football 5-A-Side (B1) 2014
16 December 2014

Speech by Mr Jonathan McKinley
Deputy Secretary for Home Affairs

Mr Chau (Tak Wai), Mrs (Grace) Chan, Mr (Roger) Ngan, Dr (Radha) Krishnan, Mr (Eigo) Matsuzaki, Mr (Pieter) Schats, Mr (Robbie) McRobbie, distinguished guests, athletes, ladies and gentlemen,

Good afternoon! First of all, thank you for inviting me to join you here today at the Opening Ceremony for the Hong Kong Open Football 5-A-Side (B1) tournament 2014. I would like to take this opportunity to extend a warm welcome to the participating teams from Mainland China, India, Malaysia and Thailand, as well as to our guests from the Mainland and overseas.

I would also like to congratulate the Hong Kong Blind Sports Federation (HKBSF) on bringing this tournament to Hong Kong for the very first time. This tournament will give players from the five different participating countries and regions an excellent opportunity to develop their skills and gain competitive experience –at the same time football fans can look forward to a series of exciting and hard-fought matches.

The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region fully appreciates the importance of sport in promoting healthy lifestyles, encouraging social interaction and fostering a strong sense of community identity. We will continue to give a high priority to developing sport at all levels and for people from all walks of life, and we

are also keen to see more organisations hosting international sports events in Hong Kong.

I have learnt from HKBSF that the Hong Kong blind football team will represent Hong Kong in next year's IBSA World Games in Seoul. I am sure that our athletes will do us proud in Korea, and I look forward to hearing news of their achievements.

The time has now come for me formally to declare the Hong Kong Open Football 5-A-Side (B1) 2014 open! I wish the tournament every success, and I wish all of you who are visiting Hong Kong a rewarding and enjoyable stay in our city.

Thank you.