

Welcoming Speech by Mr. Chau Tak Wai, MH, HKBSF Chairman

Mr. McKinley, Mr Bharath Kuthati, Mr. Yue, Dr. Krishnan, Mr. Matsuzaki, ladies and gentlemen,

On behalf of the Hong Kong Blind Sports Federation, it gives me great pleasure in welcoming all teams from China, India, Malaysia and Thailand who come all the way to Hong Kong to take part in the Hong Kong Open Football 5-A-Side Tournament. I would also like to use this opportunity to thank Mr. McKinley, Deputy Secretary for Home Affairs, Mr. Bharath Kuthati, Deputy Consul General of India, Mr. Yue, Vice President of Hong Kong Olympic Committee, Dr. Radha Krishnan, IBSA Asian Committee Chairman, Mr. Eigo Matsuzaki, Asian Representative of IBSA Football Committee; Marketing and Fundraising to take time out of their busy schedule to honour us with their presence at the opening ceremony of the Hong Kong Open Football 5-A-Side Tournament today. It's a very clear indication that both government and blind sports associations in Asia are very keen to support blind football development in Asia and are working closely together to achieve this goal.

The Hong Kong Blind Sports Federation has been established since April, 2008. Up till now, we have over 600 members with over 200 members actively participating in 9 sports training programme. They include marathon, golf, blind football, goalball, bowling, swimming, archery, tandem cycling and dragon boat. They have also participated in many local and overseas tournaments and achieved very good results.

In recent years, we focus to develop blind football and goalball with an aim to strengthening their technical skills and be ready to take part in IBSA World Games 2015. In order to well-prepare for the World Games, we organize the Hong Kong Open Football 5-A-Side (B1) 2014 so that our team will gain more open tournament experience.

Through this tournament, we would also like to strengthen the ties of friendship among football teams in Asia and IBSA officials. Hong Kong takes the lead to organize the blind football tournament this time. We

sincerely hope that more countries in Asia will follow suit and organize the next blind football tournament so that more opportunities are created for the Asian blind football teams to get together to compete and improve their football skills. Let's work together to promote IBSA Football Games for the benefit of the blind in the years to come.

Hong Kong is called the Pearl of the Orient and shopping paradise. We sincerely hope that you will have a pleasant stay in Hong Kong, enjoy the scenery of Hong Kong and do some shopping during the leisure time to boom the economy of Hong Kong.

Thank you very much!