

Message of the Chairman

It was thought 2022 would be a year to resume rowing activities in all dimensions. With the new variant of COVID, Omicron, sweeping through the world, all rowing activities in Hong Kong were again forced to stop from Jan to April. Despite the disruption brought by Omicron, we still see the following being achieved in 2022

- 1) Under the leadership of our new Head Coach of Hong Kong Team, Kenny Wu, HKG has achieved a very promising result in Asian Rowing Championship 2022, with 3 golds, 2 silvers and 1 bronze medal in the senior team and 1 silver medal in the junior team.
- 2) Following the success of hosting the Asian Continental Qualifier Event for 2021 World Rowing Virtual Indoor Championships last year, we successfully hosted another continental-level virtual event, the 2022 Asian Rowing Virtual Indoor Championships with 696 participants from 21 countries and regions.
- 3) After more than one year preparation, led by the office and assisting by the Operation Committee, phase 1 of the new online membership platform, together with a new membership model, was introduced in April 2022. The whole online platform aims to bring a better user experience and minimise the administrative work of the office. The whole project has 4 phases, Membership (1st), Course Registration (2nd), Facilities reservations (3rd) and Race Registration (4th). We are currently in the 2nd phase.
- 4) With format adjusted and modified to accommodate the COVID restrictions and limited number of boats being in operation due to closure of Shatin Rowing Centre, we still managed to host a total of 8 events/championships in 2022 attracting 2,842 participations.
- 5) The extension project of Shatin Rowing Centre, although disturbed by the outbreak of Omicron leading to a delay, the whole project is still within budget and remains on schedule. The new Sha Tin Rowing Centre is expected to be re-opened before April 2023.
- 6) The Association maintained its relationship with outside parties/organisations to engage rowing as part of their delivering programs or services. We are happy to see a lot of learn to row courses being delivered by our partners (e.g. Vessel, Hong Kong Playground Association and AYP). We are expected to see more races and events, other than learn to row course, organised by our partners outside of Shing Mun River in the coming year.
- 7) With Coastal Boats sending to venues outside of Shing Mun Rivers, more and more Coastal Rowing activities can be seen in Sai Kung and Victoria Harbour in 2022. Overall, more and more regular coastal rowing activities



Hong Kong, China
ROWING ASSOCIATION
中國香港賽艇協會

Passion to go beyond 熱愛·無限

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are seen on a weekly basis. The coastal rowing community grows at a fast pace in 2022 and is gathering momentum.

Moving to 2023, with the COVID fading away and the new initiatives introduced in the past 2 years, rowing will grow at a fast pace and the following focuses would be key for capturing the upcoming opportunities

- 1) To assist our partners to develop a solid pathway for their respective rowing programs;
- 2) To re-engineer the Talent Development Program to attract more potential candidates to join performance rowing;
- 3) To develop a solid business model for the new Sha Tin Rowing Centre to make it a strong arm for getting rowing to the community;
- 4) To keep engaging more partners to deliver rowing programs.

Hong Kong Rowing has always been lucky to have help from different parties, on behalf of the Association, I would like to thank the Sports Federation and Olympic Committee of Hong Kong, China, as well as the Home Affairs Bureau, the Leisure & Cultural Services Department and the Marine Department of Hong Kong SAR Government for their support during this past year. I would also like to thank the Hong Kong Jockey Club for providing us with the funding for Shatin Rowing Centre Extension Project which would benefit the many years of future rowing development in Hong Kong.

Finally, I would like to thank the great contribution of Robert Wilson, our founding President, who passed away on 4th November 2022. Without him, Hong Kong Rowing will absolutely not be able to reach the height as now.

"Sport must be an enjoyable social activity that brings people together to enhance their lives", a guiding principle of Bob. Bob's insight, passion and guidance will stay with us and inspire us to move Hong Kong Rowing to another height!

Yours faithfully,

Chairman

NG Kong Wan



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