



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **Standard Chartered Hong Kong Marathon 2026: a resounding success**

### **Ethiopian runner claims Men's Marathon champion**

**Hong Kong, 18 January 2026** – The Standard Chartered Hong Kong Marathon (SCHKM) 2026 successfully concluded today, showcasing its enduring appeal with a remarkable participation rate over 90 percent. A distinguished “M” Mark event, this year’s race saw a quarter (25 percent) of its entrants coming from 110 countries and regions outside of Hong Kong, the most ever since the Marathon’s inception. The SCHKM’s status on the world stage was further elevated by a record-setting 42 elite international runners, including five male and five female World Athletics Gold Label athletes, who competed for top honours alongside local elites. The event's global importance has solidified Hong Kong's standing as Asia's capital city of mega sports events. The Organiser also announced that the 2027 edition of the event will be hosted on 17 January next year

The Honourable John Lee Ka-chiu, Chief Executive of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, presided over the Marathon’s commencement this morning. He was joined by a distinguished array of guests to officiate the start of the Marathon Challenge race and kick off the event. They included Dr David Mong, President of the Hong Kong, China Association of Athletics Affiliates (HKAAA); Mr Kwan Kee, Chairman of the HKAAA and Chairman of the SCHKM 2026 Organising Committee; Ms Judy Hsu, CEO, Wealth and Retail Banking and ASEAN, South Asia, Greater China & North Asia, Standard Chartered; Mr Benjamin Hung, President, International, Standard Chartered; and Ms Mary Huen, CEO, Hong Kong and Greater China & North Asia, Standard Chartered. The city was electrified as thousands of impassioned citizens lined the streets, their fervent cheers and unwavering support propelling runners towards the finish line with the day culminating in a series of outstanding achievements.

#### **Race Results**

The Marathon Challenge delivered a truly epic contest that showcased peak athletic performance. In the Men's category, Ethiopia’s Bizuneh Melaku Belachew crossed the finish line in 2:09:39 to clinch the victory and win a prize of US\$65,000. Second place went to Too Sila Kiprono from Kenya, who finished in 2:09:57, while Langat Francis Kipkorir from Kenya earned a commendable third, finishing in 2:09:59. As all three runners finished the race within the prescribed time of 2:10:00, they were all awarded the Marathon Time Bonus of US\$8,000 on top of their prizes.

In the Marathon Challenge Women's category, Shitaye Eshete H. Habte from Bahrain



claimed the championship title with a time of 2:27:03, earning a prize of US\$65,000 and the Marathon Time Bonus of US\$5,000 as she finished the race under prescribed time of 2:28:30. Second place was secured by Tesfay Nigisti Haftu from Ethiopia with a time of 2:29:13, while Masai Linet Chepkwemai Barasa from Kenya finished third in 2:29:23. Notably, local elite runner Virginia Lo Ying Chiu became the local Women's Marathon overall champion for the second time with a time of 2:41:29.

In Half Marathon, Chen Yufan from China won the Men's championship with a time of 1:07:56, while Hsu Lihung from Chinese Taipei finished in 1:09:20, slightly ahead of local runner Gi Ka Man. Gi Ka Man recorded the best result among local male runners in the Half Marathon. In the women's event, See Rachel was crowned the Women's champion with a time of 1:20:56. Vut Tsz Ying claimed the second place with a time of 1:21:02, while Wan Sze Wai finished third in 1:22:09.

The 10KM race was equally thrilling, with Wong Tsz To claiming the Men's championship in 31:11 and Tsang Hiu Tung winning the Women's title in 35:35. In the 10KM Wheelchair race, Lee Ho Fei took home the championship by crossing the finish line in 39:23.

The Organiser continued the “Marathon Special Incentive Award” this year, offering a special prize of HK\$1,000 to all male and female Hong Kong permanent resident Challenge Group runners who completed the Marathon in under 3:00:00 and under 3:30:00, respectively. The number of qualifying runners for this edition has now been updated to 299, comprising 210 “Mr Thousands” and 89 “Ms Thousands”.

The sheer scale of this year's event was remarkable, with the quota of 74,000 runners attracting a staggering over 120,000 registrations – an all-time high. The overwhelming response underscored the profound support for the event from both runners and the public as well as the flourishing of long-distance running in Hong Kong.

### **“Leaders Cup” gathers leaders from Hong Kong’s political and business sectors**

The “Leaders Cup” once again brought together an influential assembly of local political and business leaders and other prominent figures. The race, approximately 2km in length, started this morning from Wan Chai Sports Ground and concluded at Victoria Park. Mr Paul Chan, Financial Secretary of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, officiated the starting ceremony. Over 40 leaders participated this year with Lui Kam Ho, Director of Operations of the Hong Kong Police breaking the tape, followed by Joseph Luc Ngai, Chairman, Greater China, McKinsey & Company in second place and Yip Wan Lung, Deputy Commissioner of Police, Operations, in third.

### **Maximising the economic benefits of Mega Events with “Support Small Businesses, Cheer On The City”**

The Organiser elevated the “Support Small Businesses, Cheer On The City” initiative this

year by focusing on the food and beverage industry. Over 700 small- and medium-sized F&B establishments across the city participated, with more than 150 local eateries offering SCHKM-themed special meals or exclusive runner offers. Pursuant to the Marathon, runners flocked to small shops around the racecourse area to enjoy meals, which demonstrated the programme's success in generating economic opportunities for local F&B establishments. Runners also took photos at storefronts that had been transformed into Marathon-themed walls, capturing precious memories of having completed the race.

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

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.

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



#### Photo 1

The Honourable John Lee Ka-chiu, Chief Executive of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, Dr David Mong, President of the Hong Kong, China Association of Athletics Affiliates (HKAAA); Mr Kwan Kee, Chairman of the HKAAA and Chairman of the SCHKM 2026 Organising Committee; Ms Judy Hsu, CEO, Wealth and Retail Banking and ASEAN, South Asia, Greater China & North Asia, Standard Chartered; Mr Benjamin Hung, President, International, Standard Chartered; and Ms Mary Huen, CEO, Hong Kong and Greater China & North Asia, Standard Chartered, officiated the Standard Chartered Hong Kong Marathon 2026.



### Photo 2

The Honourable John Lee Ka-chiu, Chief Executive of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, and Mr Benjamin Hung, President, International, Standard Chartered, cheered for the international and local runners at the Standard Chartered Hong Kong Marathon 2026.



### Photo 3

Mr Paul Chan, Financial Secretary of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, officiated at the Leaders Cup this morning. Over 40 local political and business leaders joined the race.



### Photo 4 & 5

The Standard Chartered Hong Kong Marathon 2026 has updated the number of qualifying runners for its “Marathon Special Incentive Award” to 299, comprising a total of 210 “Mr Thousands” and 89 “Ms Thousands”.



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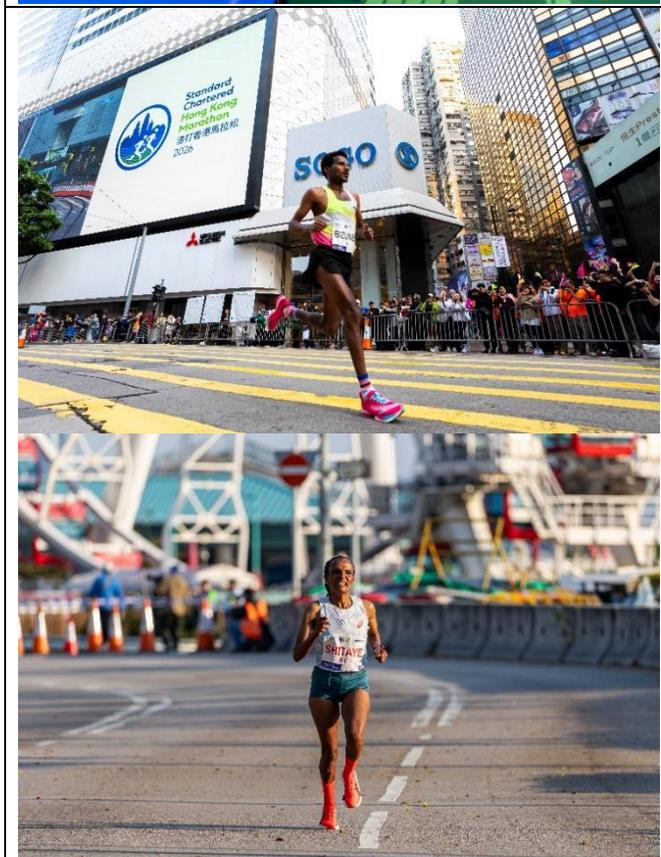


Photo 6 & 7  
Marathon winners:  
Mr Bizuneh Melaku Belachew from Ethiopia claims victory with a time of 2:09:39, while Ms Shitaye Eshete H. Habte from Bahrain wins the race in 2:27:03.



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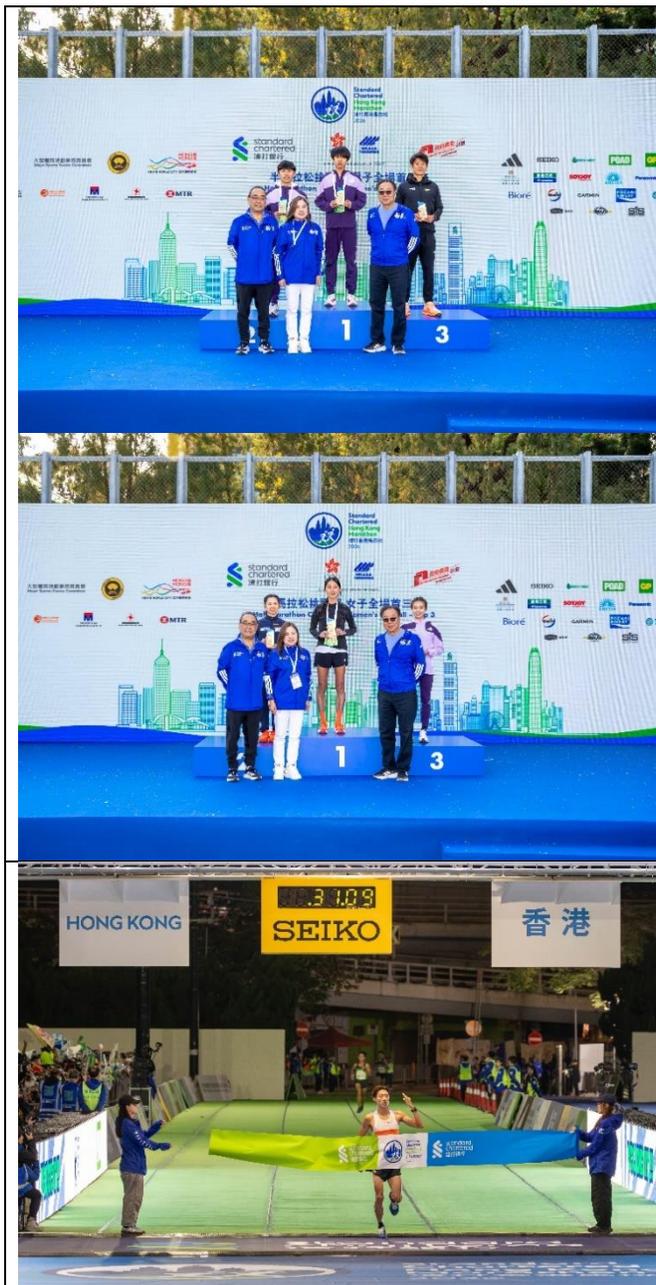


Photo 8 & 9

Half Marathon winners:

Mr Chen Yufan from Beijing claims victory with a time of 1:07:56, while Ms See Rachel from Singapore wins the race in 1:20:56.

Photo 10 & 11

10KM winners:

Local runner Mr Wong Tsz To claims victory with a time of 31:11, while another local winner Tsang Hiu Tung wins the race in 35:35.



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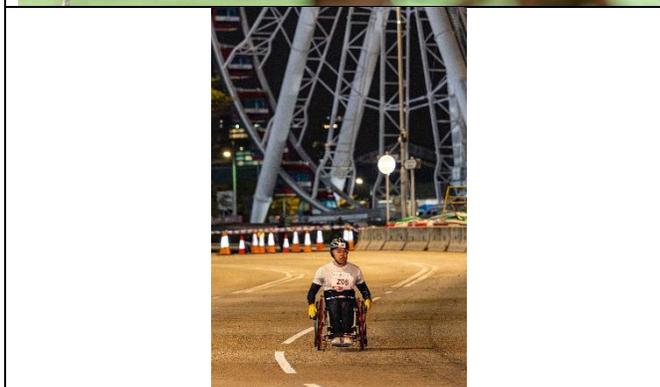


Photo 12  
Lee Ho Fei wins the 10KM Wheelchair race with a time of 39:23.



Photo 13  
The Organiser elevated the “Support Small Businesses, Cheer On The City” initiative this year by focusing on food and beverage industry. Over 700 small- and medium-sized F&B establishments across the city participated. Pursuant to the race, runners flocked to small shops around the area to enjoy meals.

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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.