

# London thrills to excitement of Hong Kong Dragon Boat Festival 2019 (with photos)

London's docklands thronged with thousands of people who came together to enjoy a day of Dragon Boat racing and cultural performances at the London Hong Kong Dragon Boat Festival 2019, sponsored by the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office, London (London ETO) on June 30 (London time). The festival took place in London's Royal Albert Dock, opposite London City Airport, and helped raise money for Chinese charities in London.

The teams taking part ranged from local community and city businesses to public organisations and charities, and included several British Dragon Boat Association teams. The London Hong Kong Dragon Boat Festival is organised by the London Chinatown Lions Club, the London Chinese Community Centre and the Hong Kong Executives Club. A record number of 56 dragon boat teams took part in a full day of racing.

Addressing the opening ceremony, the Director-General of the London ETO, Ms Priscilla To, said, "Dragon boat racing originated in ancient Chinese folklore more than two thousand years ago. To this date, it has become one of the most celebrated festivals all over the globe.

"Dragon boat racing has become a symbol of Hong Kong's strength, vitality and dynamism. The excitement of the games, the colour of the racing boats and the flying flags, as well as the drums on the boat and the cheers of spectators all resemble the energy, the charm and the vibrancy of Hong Kong."

Apart from the racing, the festival created a true carnival atmosphere. As well as the thrilling races, there was a main East West stage featuring a wide range of acts, including traditional Chinese lion dancing; live music from up-and-coming local artists; theatrical acts; dance performances; tai chi demonstrations and comedy acts. There was also a food festival allowing people to try traditional street food from Asia including Chinese, Japanese and Korean Cuisine.

More information about the London Hong Kong Dragon Boat Festival 2019 is available at [www.lhkdbf.co.uk/](http://www.lhkdbf.co.uk/).

