<u>"M" Mark status awarded to Hong Kong</u> <u>Open</u>

The following is issued on behalf of the Major Sports Events Committee:

The Major Sports Events Committee (MSEC) has awarded "M" Mark status to the Hong Kong Open. The prestigious golf event had been postponed earlier and will now be held from January 9 to 12.

The Chairman of the MSEC, Mr Karl Kwok, said today (January 2) that this event, like all "M" Mark events, adds colour and vibrancy to Hong Kong and provides an opportunity for the general public to enjoy high-level competition.

"'M' Mark events reinforce Hong Kong's position as the events capital of Asia," Mr Kwok said.

"'M' Mark events also help generate economic benefits for Hong Kong by attracting tourists. They instil a sustainable sporting culture in the community and help foster social cohesion," he added.

The "M" Mark System was launched in 2004 to help local national sports associations organise more major sports events and nurture them into sustainable undertakings. Sports events meeting the assessment criteria will be granted "M" Mark status by the MSEC. Funding support will also be provided to some event organisers.

The number of recognised "M" Mark events increased from four in 2005 to 15 in 2019. So far, around \$184.61 million has been approved to support recognised "M" Mark events.

For details of other "M" Mark events, please visit <u>www.mevents.org.hk</u>.