

HK and Yunnan signed sports exchange and cooperation memorandum

The Secretary for Home Affairs, Dr Patrick Ho, and the head of the Sports Bureau of Yunnan Provincial Government, Ms Cha Dalin, today (May 27) signed a sports exchange and cooperation memorandum in Kunming to establish a platform for sport development in the two places.

Dr Ho said, "The platform aims to achieve exchange and cooperation in sports between Yunnan Province and the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, and to draw on the synergy of the regional cooperation framework of Pan-Pearl River Delta comprising nine provinces and two special administrative regions.

"This platform can further encourage the collaboration and exchange among non-governmental organisations to promote sport for all, boost the standard of competitive sports, stimulate the development of sports industries and bring the diverse functions of sport into play," he added.

The two governments had agreed to develop sport for mutual benefits in the following four aspects:

- (i) To develop sport for all, advocate exchanges on sports between sports organisations and associations, active mass participation of sports regardless of age and class, as well as the popularisation of sports and formation of sport culture;
- (ii) To hold non-scheduled competitions of different levels in both places, in a bid to identify and train upcoming athletes and raise the standard of sports;
- (iii) To create conditions through exchange of coaches, complement between training bases, sharing of sport science information in a mutual beneficial manner for better training of elite athletes;
- (iv) To cooperate closely in the development of sport industries for improved operation and regulation of the industries and exchange of information.

Dr Ho said both parties had also agreed to set up a mechanism for reciprocal visits of high-level delegations to assess and review the efficiency of cooperation.

Ends/Friday, May 27, 2005