

PSHA's speech at the Oxfam Trailwalker 2007 Closing Ceremony cum
300-day countdown to the Beijing 2008 Paralympic Games

Following is the speech delivered by the Permanent Secretary for Home Affairs, Mrs Carrie Yau, at the Oxfam Trailwalker 2007 Closing Ceremony cum 300-day countdown to the Beijing 2008 Paralympic Games today (November 11):

Mrs. Fung, Mr. Chan, Distinguished Guests of Honour and Trailwalkers,

I am delighted to attend today's Oxfam Trailwalker 2007 Closing Ceremony cum 300-day countdown to the Beijing 2008 Paralympic Games.

I wish to thank Oxfam for organising Oxfam Trailwalker 2007 raising funds for charity and cultivating ties with friends from all over the world. Oxfam has been committed to facilitating integration of the disadvantaged groups into society, ensuring equal opportunities for all and allowing the disadvantaged groups to give full play to their talents. Such noble causes are consistent with the ideals of "Transcendence, Equality and Integration" of the Beijing 2008 Paralympic Games.

With the approach of the 300-day countdown to the Paralympic Games, we will step up efforts on the publicity and promotional programme for both the Olympic and Paralympic Games. We will intensify the efforts as the Games draw near by, for example, organising celebration activities on the key countdown dates, dressing up the city, publicising the events, and actively promoting the concept of "A Society for All".

The Paralympic Games will be of equal splendour to the Olympics. We aim to ride on the Games to enhance people's understanding of the disabled sports and to promote the spirit of integration between able-bodied and disabled athletes. The Paralympic Games will present us with a precious opportunity to achieve this. I look forward to your future participation in the celebration and educational activities for the Games. Thank you.