

PSHA's speech at the Samsung's Anycall Olympic Showcase Grand Opening

Following is the speech delivered by the Permanent Secretary for Home Affairs, Mrs Carrie Yau, at the Samsung's Anycall Olympic Showcase Grand Opening today (December 17):

Mr Fok, The Hon. Consul-General Soek Tong-youn, Mr. Hui, Mr. Kim, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen,

I am most delighted to be able to join you in Samsung's Anycall Olympic Showcase Grand Opening this afternoon.

Last Friday, 14 December, the Finance Committee of the Legislative Council approved a sum of \$150 million for the Government to enhance further our promotion work on Olympism to prepare Hong Kong for the 2008 Beijing Olympic and Paralympic Games with the staging of the Equestrian Events in Hong Kong. With less than 240 days to go from the Beijing Olympic Games and barely two weeks away from the advent of 2008, the Olympic year, Hong Kong is now at the threshold of the grandeur world-class sports event.

In the run-up to Olympics, the Government will continue to work very closely with key stakeholders like the Sports Federation and Olympic Committee of Hong Kong, China, Hong Kong Paralympic Committee & Sports Association for the Physically Disabled, official sponsors of the Games like Samsung, and the Airport Authority to step up the publicity and promotional programmes on Olympism, and to make the Equestrian Events in Hong Kong a lasting legacy in 2008. We would endeavour to build up a carnival atmosphere in our community before and during the Games and heighten the interests and enthusiasm of the general public in Olympism. We shall also try to make legacy out of our encounter with the Equestrian Events. Riding on the ecstasy, we shall make it a lasting memory so that Hong Kong would be remembered as a successful Olympic co-host city, helping it live up to an international Olympic co-host city.

To kick off our plan, on 31 December, we together with the Sport Federation and Olympic Committee in Hong Kong, and Radio and Television Hong Kong, shall jointly present a new year eve countdown at Times Square in Causeway Bay with an Olympic flavour. The countdown would serve as a prelude to our launch of the publicity drive for Olympism in 2008. As we draw nearer to the Games, we shall

intensify our endeavours by organizing more community-wide celebration activities on the key countdown dates, increasing the scope and extent of our city dress-up programme and rolling out more sophisticated programmes, both at the territory-wide and district levels, to promote Olympism.

As a worldwide Olympic Partner and a Presenting Partner in the Olympic Torch Relay, I wish to extend my heart-felt thanks to Samsung for its support in the city dress-up programme in the territory and patronage to the preparatory work of the Torch Relay in Hong Kong. I sincerely wish Samsung would continue to answer ANY CALL in taking forward the promotion of Olympism in 2008. I take this opportunity to appeal to the rest of the community in responding to ANY CALL from us when we seek your cooperation and participation in the exciting events to celebrate Olympism starting today and into the year 2008

Last but not least, I would also like wish you all, in advance, a Merry Christmas and a wonderful and prosperous New Year.

Thank you.