

PSHA's speech at Opening Ceremony of the Sport Medicine Course 2008 (English only)

The following is the speech delivered by the Permanent Secretary for Home Affairs, Mrs Carrie Yau, at the Opening Ceremony of the Sport Medicine Course 2008 today (November 15):

The Hon Timothy Fok, Dr Jegathesan, distinguished guests, friends from the media,

Good morning. I am very pleased to have been invited to this opening ceremony. Sport medicine is, without doubt, an extremely important part in helping to train elite athletes at international level. In the wake of the Beijing Olympic Games, it is timely for us to review how sports medicine could further support the development of athletes. I would like to thank the Sports Federation and Olympic Committee of Hong Kong, China in hosting this IOC Sport Medicine Course in Hong Kong for this purpose.

The Hong Kong Special Administration Region Government is committed to sports development. Our strategic directions are to promote sports in the community, to develop elite sports, and to make Hong Kong a location for major international sports events. As you may already be aware, the triumphs of Chinese athletes at the Beijing Olympic Games have aroused much interest in sports in the local community.

The government will capitalise on such interest and continue to work with stakeholders on measures to further enhance the support to elite athletes as they prepare for the participation in the upcoming major events, including the 2009 East Asian Games hosted by Hong Kong, the Guangzhou 2010 Asian Games and the London 2012 Olympic Games. Enhanced support in sport science and sport medicine forms an integral part of the preparation for our athletes. I hope our sport professionals can gain the most from this course and contribute further to our elite sports development.

Ladies and gentlemen, over the next couple of days, you will have the pleasure and privilege of listening to the views and opinions of many experts on the subjects of sport medicine. I am sure you will all enjoy the course. To our overseas guests, may I extend a very warm welcome to you and hope you not only benefit from the course, but also enjoy our beautiful and exciting city.

Thank you.

Ends/Saturday, November 15, 2008