

New scholarship scheme for young athletes (with photos)

The Secretary for Home Affairs, Mr Tsang Tak-sing, today (May 23) announced the setting up of a new incentive scheme to provide scholarships to young athletes to encourage them to strive for excellence in major sports events.

Speaking at the Flag Presentation Ceremony of the Hong Kong Delegation to the First Asian Youth Games, Mr Tsang said the Government had recently injected \$5 million into the Hong Kong Athletes Fund, for the purpose of setting up an incentive scheme to provide scholarships to young athletes (those aged 18 or below) who achieved outstanding results in the Asian Youth Games and Youth Olympic Games.

"Young athletes provide excellent role models for their peers. They exemplify the value of dedication, discipline, hard work and teamwork," Mr Tsang said.

He said that in order to excel in international competitions, athletes had to rely on their own perseverance, and also the support from their families, teammates and coaches, as well as recognition and encouragement from the wider community.

"The Hong Kong SAR Government is committed to nurturing athletes' development. We hope that by providing such incentives and support, we can encourage more young people to realise their sporting potential and develop careers in sport."

The Hong Kong Sports Institute, in consultation with the sports sector, is working out the details of the scheme.

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