

## SHA exchanges views with Taipei City Mayor (with photos)

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The Secretary for Home Affairs, Mr Tsang Tak-sing, met the Taipei City Mayor, Mr Hau Lung-bin, at the Tseung Kwan O Sports Ground today (June 26) to share experiences on organising large-scale international sports events.

As the President of the East Asian Games (EAG) Planning Committee, Mr Tsang briefed Mr Hau on Hong Kong's preparation for the EAG as well as various facilities in the sports ground. Mr Hau is also the President of the Taipei Organising Committee of the 21st Summer Deaflympics.

"Chinese Taipei is one of the participating teams of the EAG. I warmly welcome the athletes to come to Hong Kong and hope that they will do their best and excel in the games. Let's work together to make the games a memorable one," Mr Tsang said.

"I also hope that co-operation between Hong Kong and Taiwan will be enhanced to more extensive and broader levels, whether in sports, culture, religion, commerce or other aspects," he added.

After listening to a briefing on the EAG at the Tseung Kwan O Sports Ground, Mr Hau visited the main sports ground and warm-up secondary sports ground.

The newly completed Tseung Kwan O Sports Ground has an area of about six hectares. Construction on it began in April 2006 and completed in March this year at a cost of about \$400 million. The venue comprises a main sports ground with an eight-lane 400-metre all-weather synthetic running track, a warm-up secondary sports ground and other facilities for large-scale international competitions. The sports ground will not only serve as the venue for the track and field events of the EAG but will also provide facilities for the development of both community and elite sports in Hong Kong.

From December 5 to 13, 2009, more than 3,000 athletes from the nine EAG participating countries and regions, namely China, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Hong Kong China, Japan, Korea, Macao China, Mongolia, Chinese Taipei and Guam, will gather in Hong Kong to take part in the Fifth East Asian Games.

To widely publicise the EAG message and bring enthusiasm for sports to every corner of society, the 18 District Councils will organise a series of activities bearing

the theme "Green, Cultural and Energetic EAG" to enlist public support for the games in the coming few months. On August 8, Fitness for All in support of EAG will be held in 18 districts. The torch relay cum 100 days countdown for the EAG will be held on August 29 while school torch relays will be staged from September to November.

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