



**Press Release
(For Immediate Release)**

**Asian Continental Qualifier Event for the 2021 World Rowing Indoor Championships
will be held virtually this coming Sunday (24 January 2021)**

Nothing can stop rowing together- Let's Row!

(Hong Kong, 20 January 2021) Hong Kong, China Rowing Association (HKCRA) today announced the first ever Asian Continental Qualifier (ACQ) Event for the 2021 World Rowing Indoor Championships (WRICH) to be held on **24 January 2021** in Hong Kong.

For the first time ever, the 2021 WRICH will be staged as a virtual event. Competitors will have the opportunity to race for the title of World Champion from anywhere in the world. The 2021 WRICH will include a continental qualification round and well as an open qualification pathway. There are a total of five continental qualifiers including Africa, the Americas, Asia, Europe and Oceania. Those who qualify via the continental events will join those who qualify via the open pathway in the Finals of the WRICH from 23 to 27 February 2021. The HKCRA is proud to have been entrusted by the World Rowing to organize the Asian Qualifier in Hong Kong. The competition will be accessible to anyone of Asian nationality with access to a Concept2 static rowing ergometer equipped with the latest performance monitors and racing will take place in real time.

The ACQ combined elements of the “live - virtual” race format opens the door for HKCRA to expand the reach of this Asian event to all rowers throughout the Asia. Currently, there are 14 Asian countries/regions with nearly 300 entries registered to take part. The Organizing Committee, formed under the HKCRA, has put their best efforts to tackle the technical challenges and work closely with the World Rowing’s technical consultants over the past few months in order to bring the ACQ to Hong Kong. The new virtual platform, developed by Time Team in the Netherlands, allows Rowers to compete together from any physical locations and all performances can be directly compared online. Spectators and supporters are also able to watch the races at real time, with live streaming on the YouTube channel and on the HKCRA’s official Facebook page.

“The COVID-19 pandemic has strongly impacted sports events locally, regionally and globally. In view of the physical constraints of hosting the competition in person, HKCRA hopes that the virtual event will bring the regional and local rowers together, professional and amateur, embracing the rowing spirit.



We expect the ACQ of the WRICH attracts 14 Asian countries/regions with nearly 300 entries from the region, extending our continuing success from the World Rowing Coastal Championships in late 2019.”
said by Mr NG Kong Wan, Chairman of the HKCRA.

As the host city, the Hong Kong Rowing Team has entered 19 representatives to participate in the Race. **Head Rowing Coach, Chris PERRY**, enthusiastically welcomed the event:

“The past year has been a very difficult one for the world’s top rowers with the Olympic Games and almost all worldwide competitions postponed or cancelled. Our Hong Kong rowers have had to remain in closed camps inside to Hong Kong Sports Institute in order to support the community in battling the pandemic. This virtual event provides the opportunity to experience the excitement of international competition again, to meet our friends and rivals throughout the region and to look ahead to the future. The event welcomes not only elite athletes but also Para rowers, Masters or even those who just row at home. Who knows – we may also see some new stars emerging.”

The HKCRA would like to take this opportunity to express our thankfulness to the Arts and Sports Development Fund of the Home Affairs Bureau, the Leisure and Cultural Services Department, and our sponsors – RowSports Asia Limited and OXD for their support

For more information about the ACQ, please visit the website at <http://www.rowing.org.hk/competitions/acq> or Official Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/2021ACQ/>

For more information about the WRICH, please visit the official website of World Rowing: <https://worldrowing.com/events/indoor-events/world-indoor-championships/>

Photos of Hong Kong Rowing Athletes and Video of Zoom Media Brief at: <https://bit.ly/2XTSprh>

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Hong Kong, China Rowing Association
20 January 2021



Asian Continental Qualifier Event for the 2021 World Rowing Indoor Championships
Hong Kong, China, 24 January 2021
Event Fact Sheet

General information

| | | | | | |
|---------------------------|--|------------------------------|---------------------|--------------|-------------|
| Race Date | 24 January 2021 (Sunday) | | | | |
| Venue | Anywhere around Asia Countries/Regions | | | | |
| Time | 13:00 (First Race) – 17:45 (Last Race) (HK Time) | | | | |
| Organisers | World Rowing Federation (FISA) Hong Kong, China Rowing Association (HKCRA) | | | | |
| Website | http://www.rowing.org.hk/competitions/acq | | | | |
| Facebook page | https://www.facebook.com/2021ACQ/ | | | | |
| Events | Men (13) | | | | |
| | | Events | Abbreviation | 2000m | 500m |
| | 1. | Men's Singles | M | ✓ | ✓ |
| | 2. | Men's Under 19 | MU19 | ✓ | ✓ |
| | 3. | Men's Under 23 | MU23 | ✓ | ✓ |
| | 4. | Lightweight Men's Singles | LM | ✓ | ✓ |
| | 5. | Lightweight Men's Under 23 | LMU23 | ✓ | ✓ |
| | 6. | Men's Master | M Master | ✓ | / |
| | 7. | Lightweight Men's Master | LM Master | ✓ | / |
| | 8. | Para-rowing Men's Singles | PARA Men | ✓ | / |
| | Women (13) | | | | |
| | | Events | Abbreviation | 2000m | 500m |
| | 1. | Women's Singles | W | ✓ | ✓ |
| | 2. | Women's Under 19 | WU19 | ✓ | ✓ |
| | 3. | Women's Under 23 | WU23 | ✓ | ✓ |
| | 4. | Lightweight Women's Singles | LW | ✓ | ✓ |
| | 5. | Lightweight Women's Under 23 | LWU23 | ✓ | ✓ |
| 6. | Women's Master | W Master | ✓ | / | |
| 7. | Lightweight Women's Master | LW Master | ✓ | / | |
| 8. | Para-rowing Women's Singles | PARA Women | ✓ | / | |
| Preliminary Race Schedule | Annex 1 | | | | |
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| LIVE on YouTube | Stay tuned and follow our Facebook at: https://www.facebook.com/2021ACQ | | | | |



Preliminary Race Schedule

Asian Continental Qualifier Event for 2021 WRICH
24 Jan 2021

Annex 1

| RACE LINE NO | DISTANCE | WEIGH-IN TIME | LOBBY OPEN | START TIME | EVENT | EVENT | EVENT |
|--------------|----------|---------------|------------|------------|----------|------------|-----------|
| 1 | 2000M | | 12:20 | 13:00 | M U19 | | |
| 2 | 2000M | 11:20 - 12:20 | 12:40 | 13:20 | M | LM | |
| 3 | 2000M | 11:40 - 12:40 | 13:00 | 13:40 | M U23 | LM U23 | |
| 4 | 2000M | 12:00 - 13:00 | 13:20 | 14:00 | W U19 | W MASTER | LW MASTER |
| 5 | 2000M | 12:20 - 13:20 | 13:40 | 14:20 | W | LW | |
| 6 | 2000M | 12:40 - 13:40 | 14:00 | 14:40 | W U23 | LW U23 | |
| 7 | 2000M | 13:00 - 14:00 | 14:20 | 15:00 | M MASTER | LM MASTER | |
| 8 | 2000M | | 14:40 | 15:20 | PARA MEN | PARA WOMEN | |
| 9 | 500M | | 15:50 | 16:30 | M U19 | | |
| 10 | 500M | 14:45 - 15:45 | 16:05 | 16:45 | M | LM | |
| 11 | 500M | 15:00 - 16:00 | 16:20 | 17:00 | M U23 | LM U23 | |
| 12 | 500M | | 16:35 | 17:15 | W U19 | | |
| 13 | 500M | 15:30 - 16:30 | 16:50 | 17:30 | W | LW | |
| 14 | 500M | 15:45 - 16:45 | 17:05 | 17:45 | W U23 | LW U23 | |



Annex 2

**Asian Continental Qualifier Event for the 2021 World Rowing Indoor Championships
Hong Kong, China, 24 January 2021**

Hong Kong Team's Entry

Women' Team

| | Name | U19 2000m | U23 LW 2000m | LW 2000m |
|---|---------------------|-----------|--------------|----------|
| 1 | DO Mei Yuk | ✓ | | |
| 2 | POON O Yu | ✓ | | |
| 3 | LEUNG Wing Wun | | ✓ | |
| 4 | CHEUNG Hoi Lam | | ✓ | |
| 5 | HUNG Wing Yan Winne | | ✓ | |
| 6 | WONG Lok Yiu | | ✓ | |
| 7 | LEUNG King Wan | | | ✓ |
| 8 | WONG Sheung Yee | | | ✓ |

Men' Team

| | Name | U19 2000m | U23 LM 2000m | LM 2000m | U23 LM 500m |
|----|---------------|--------------|-----------------|----------|----------------|
| 1 | Jaden Li HEAD | ✓ | | | |
| 2 | TO Siu Po | ✓ | | | |
| 3 | HO Chak Lung | | ✓ | | |
| 4 | WONG Ho Yin | | ✓ | | |
| 5 | WONG Wai Chun | | ✓ | | |
| 6 | LEE Chun Heng | | ✓ | | |
| 7 | CHAU Yee Ping | | ✓ | | |
| 8 | LAM San Tung | | ✓ | | |
| 9 | CHAN Chi Fung | | ✓ | | ✓ |
| 10 | CHAN Tik Lun | | | ✓ | |
| 11 | CHIU Hin Chun | | | ✓ | |



Annex 3

Asian Continental Qualifier Event for the 2021 World Rowing Indoor Championships Hong Kong, China, 24 January 2021

Featured Athletes

Dattu Bhokanal from India racing in the Men Open 2000m

Represented India in single Sculls at the 2016 Rio Olympic Games and won a gold medal in Quad Sculls at the 2018 Asian Games

Phuttharaksa "Pat" Negree from Thailand racing in the Masters 40-49 Lightweight Women 2000m

Pat is a 4-time Olympian and one of the most successful and longest-serving athletes on the Asian competition circuit. At 46 years old she is still highly competitive and still competing on the water as part of the Thai Team.

Melcah Caballero from Philippines racing in the Lightweight Women 500m

A double gold medalist from the 2019 South East Asian Games in women's lightweight singles and doubles. Aiming to qualify for the Olympic Games in Tokyo.

Chiu Hin Chun from Hong Kong, China racing in Lightweight Men 2000m

Partner with Chan Chi Fung in the Men's Lightweight Double and Men's Lightweight Quad from the 2019 The 19th Asian Rowing Championships and captured one Gold and one Silver medals; Silver medalist from the 18th Asian Games in the Men's Lightweight Single Sculls

Chan Chi Fung from Hong Kong, China racing in U23 Lightweight Men 2000m & 500m

Thomas broke 4 world records in the year of 2020, Thomas set a new world record in Concept 2 Indoor Rower with Slides Lightweight Men 19-29 at 21,097 meters with 1 hour 14 minutes 18.1 seconds; Partner with Chiu Hin Chun in the Men's Lightweight Double and Men's Lightweight Quad from the 2019 The 19th Asian Rowing Championships and captured one Gold and one Silver medals.



Annex 3

HUNG Wing Yan Winne from Hong Kong, China racing in U23 Lightweight Women 2000m

Winne is the top female rower in the team following Carmen's departure; Gold medalist from the 2019 World Rowing Coastal Championships in Women Coxed Quad; first time to attend 2019 World Rowing Under 23 Championships and finished in the 6th position.

Poon Oi Yu from Hong Kong, China racing in U19 Women 2000m

Gold medalist from the 2019 Asian Rowing Junior Championships in Junior Women's Singles; Bronze from the 2018 Asian Rowing Coastal Championships in Coastal Women Coxed Four.