



# 香港滾軸運動總會 Hong Kong Federation of Roller Sports

香港銅鑼灣掃桿埔大球場徑一號體育大樓1016室  
Room 1016, Sports House, 1 Stadium Path, So Kon Po, Causeway Bay Hong Kong  
電話Tel.no. (852) 2504-8203-4 傳真Fax.no (852) 2577 5671  
電郵email : hkfrs@hkolympic.org 網頁website: www.rollersports.org.hk

Affiliated To: 附屬:

Sports Federation & Olympic  
Committee of Hong Kong, China  
中國香港體育協會暨奧林匹克委員會

International Roller Sports  
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國際滾軸運動總會

Confederation of Asia Roller Sports  
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29<sup>th</sup> April 2005

## PRESS RELEASE

### TEAM HONG KONG READY TO ROLL IN KOREA

For the first time in Hong Kong history an inline hockey team will join other Hong Kong roller sport athletes to compete in the 11<sup>th</sup> Asian Roller Sports Championship as Team Hong Kong in Jeonju, Korea May 10<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup>.

There are currently a number of new sports vying for attention on the Olympic stage. One such new sport is termed Roller Sports, which has several disciplines, Inline Hockey being one of them. The other disciplines are speed and artistic skating and quad hockey. Hong Kong will be sending four athletes to Korea to compete in the speed skating discipline along with a men's team for the relatively new sport of inline hockey. Popular in the Americas and Europe for many years, inline hockey is now growing very quickly across Asia and Pacific as well.

Inline hockey is being introduced to the Indoor Asian Games in Macau in 2007 and is already a feature of the Pan American games and other continental level events. The FIRS World Inline Hockey Championships held each year are extremely exciting with all the top national teams in the world competing. Hong Kong hopes to compete at this level within a very few years. The rules of the game promote speed, agility and team strategy. This allows our Asian inline hockey players to compete more equally with the more established countries whose athletes tend to be size XL !

The Hong Kong Federation of Roller Sports and the Hong Kong, China Inline Hockey Association formally joined together in November 2004 with a view to promote the various roller sports activities. Fifteen athletes representing Hong Kong will travel to Jeonju, Korea for the 11<sup>th</sup> Asian Roller Sports Championships from May 10<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup>. They will compete in speed skating and inline hockey disciplines. This growing representation of Hong Kong teams at the Asian Championships is establishing Hong Kong as a formidable presence in high level Roller Sports.



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Inline hockey has been growing at an exciting rate here in Hong Kong. Over the last four to five years, the Hong Kong Federation of Roller Sports, the Hong Kong, China Inline Hockey Association and the YMCA of Hong Kong have led the way and they are paving the way for new groups to get established and promote these healthy and exciting sports.

Moreover, Hong Kong is no stranger to organizing top level International tournaments. The Hong Kong Inline Cup has been hosted at the YMCA of Hong Kong Kings Park Centenary Centre in Yau Ma Tei for the last four years. Now in its fifth year the Hong Kong Inline Cup is the largest International event of its kind currently in the Asia Pacific region. The event held every November attracted thirty-six teams in 2004 with over five hundred athletes (both junior and senior) from eight different countries traveling to our city. Countries sending teams included Hong Kong, Singapore, Chinese Taipei, Korea, Philippines, Great Britain, Canada and Australia. This event has grown at an incredible rate and already this year is set to add teams from the USA and New Zealand to the list, possibly more. Organizers believe that the 2005 Hong Kong Inline Cup will involve some forty to fifty teams from nine or ten countries making this one of the largest amateur sporting events held annually in Hong Kong.

With this level of commitment, credibility and success in developing the sport of inline hockey, the Hong Kong Federation of Roller Sports was pleased to challenge the Hong Kong, China Inline Hockey Association to form and train Team Hong Kong Inline Hockey to a level to compete in International events such as the upcoming Asian Roller Sports Championships. Team Hong Kong men's team will compete against Japan, Korea, Iran and Chinese Taipei in what is sure to be a very fast paced and competitive week of hockey.

The speed skating and inline hockey athletes have been training hard for the Asian Championships over the last few months. To send them off with all our best wishes for success in Korea, a "Send-off Event" will be held at YMCA King's Park Centenary Centre, 22 Gascoigne Road at 9:30 p.m. on Tuesday May 3rd. **The "Press" are cordially invited to attend.**

The Hong Kong Federation of Roller Sports is responsible for the development of all roller sport disciplines throughout Hong Kong. You are welcome to browse [www.rollersports.org.hk](http://www.rollersports.org.hk) for more information.

The Hong Kong, China Inline Hockey Association is dedicated to the development of inline hockey development in Hong Kong. Its web site is [www.hkciha.com.hk](http://www.hkciha.com.hk) on which it posts its purposes and activities.



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The YMCA of Hong Kong is dedicated to personal development of individuals in spirit, mind and body and has a long history of being a pioneer in sports development. You can find out more by visiting their web site at [www.ymcahk.org.hk](http://www.ymcahk.org.hk)

For information on this Press Release please contact Chuck Allison by email [callison@ymcahk.org.hk](mailto:callison@ymcahk.org.hk) or by phone at 2268-7768.