

Standard Chartered Hong Kong Marathon by Nazym Nussipkaliyeva

The annual Hong Kong Standard Chartered Marathon was held on 24 October 2021. Standard Chartered Bank had been sponsoring the Hong Kong Marathon since 1997. They promote a healthy lifestyle accompanied with the marathon spirit. As a third-year MGT student, I had a chance to be a part of this vital community by supporting and cheering for our runners.



I was astonished to know President Kuo has run the marathon with the CityU delegation for 12 consecutive years, leading a team of 240 athletes this year. I knew that senior citizens in Hong Kong tend to do different kinds of sports and activities regularly; however, running a marathon for more than a decade is a real success, I would say.

To pick up cheering materials and do a pre-marathon briefing, supporters had to wake up at 5-6 am and gather at the designated areas. Luckily, I am a morning person, which is why I quickly woke up with the sunrise. At the early morning, it felt as if I am going to take a plane, travel the world, and be a part of some adventure. Indeed, it was an adventurous and engaging experience, even though we just had to drive to Hong Kong Island.

During the pre-marathon gathering at AC1 Building, I got to know more about students from our sports team and professors, but as marathon participants this time. I was delighted to see them smiling and excited for the upcoming event.

Upon finishing the briefing, we took a shuttle bus with the filming team and runners. Before reaching the starting point at TST, we all had a chance to chat and wish each other the very best of luck. Thanks to other supporting groups, who reached the observing points earlier that day, we were up-to-date with the latest news and activities in the marathon field. We were very proud every time students or staff representing CityU crossed the finishing line and sometimes made new records. Moreover, we figured out that our university was the only one with a supporting and cheering team. It is not surprising to see fewer people coming to cheer up runners during the pandemics; however, it once again showed our institution's high organizational and cooperative level.



Our runners with President Kuo had successfully crossed the finishing line in Victoria Park within 1 hour and 30 minutes. Thus, we all gathered to congratulate our runners at the end of the

marathon and took some memorable photos. I am pleased to be a part of this community and look forward to join this event next year as the runner.

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