



Hong Kong Chess Federation

Hon. Patron: His Excellency the Governor of Hong Kong

1202, Luk Hoi Tong Building, Queen's Road, Central, Hong Kong.

Telex: 86594 PANKU HX Cable: CHESSFED

6th Invitational Cities Asian Chess Tournament sponsored by the Hongkong Bank Foundation

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The 6th Asian Cities chess tournament opens in Hong Kong on Saturday March 2nd at 1:15 p.m. at the Harbour View Holiday Inn Hotel. 26 city teams from 15 different countries will be competing for the title in the largest international team event in chess this year.

In the previous five events since 1979, all but the 1984 event were held in Hong Kong, and cities from the Peoples Republic of China have won every time apart from 1979 when Singapore triumphed. This year the picture looks similar as on paper the Chinese teams from Shanghai and Tai Yuen are the strongest, having the PRC's top 4 players in the recent World team chess championship split between the two sides. Shanghai the champions in 1981 and 1984 look in particular very hard to beat. Other teams that are likely to contest the top spots with the Chinese are Sydney, Madras, Jakarta and Singapore with Penang and Auckland as possible dark horses. Metro Manila who have been second 4 times are this year sending a side of relatively unknown players who are however unlikely to be weak in view of the strength of Philippine chess. They could turn out to be a real surprise.

Hong Kong has two teams playing. The Kowloon side is the weaker of the two and is not likely to finish among the leaders, but the Hong Kong team is quite strong and should finish in the top 10 if they play to form. As in the past distractions of work and family which inevitably occur when playing at home may mean a lower placing.

The tournament has grown from a modest start in 1979 when 12 teams from 8 countries competed to its present size, covering all of Asia from Kuwait in the west to Japan in the east and down to Australia and New Zealand in the south, and all the major powers in Asian and Australasian chess are well represented. Apart from the World team championship it is the largest international team event in the world and as such brings credit and publicity to Hong Kong.

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After the opening round the tournament moves venue on Sunday 3rd March to YMCA International House, Waterloo Road, Kowloon and the remaining 8 rounds will be played there until the finish on Sunday 10th March. All rounds, apart from the last one which starts at 12:00 noon, commence at 2:00 p.m. and spectators are welcome to come free of charge.

The tournament is sponsored by the Hongkong Bank Foundation and presented by the Hong Kong Chess Federation.