

PRESS RELEASE

**A.S. Watson Group Recognised 943 Elite Student Athletes
 Leading up to the Rio Olympics
 Inspiring Awardees to Hold a “Can-Do Spirit”**

(Hong Kong, May 15, 2016) A.S. Watson Group Hong Kong Student Sports Awards (HKSSA), one of the most recognised local youth sports awards, held the 11th Award Presentation Ceremony today. With the participation of 85% of all primary, secondary and special schools in Hong Kong, HKSSA presented awards to 943 student sports elites this year. Launched in 2005, HKSSA opens to all local schools to commend one sports talent from each school every year, recognising the effort made by student sports elites behind their achievements and injecting positive energy into the youths.

Mr. LI Bing, Director, Department of Publicity, Cultural and Sports Affairs Liaison Office of the Central People’s Government in the Hong Kong S.A.R., Mr. Eddie NG Hak-kim, SBS, JP, Secretary for Education, Mr. YEUNG Tak-keung, Commissioner for Sports, Recreation and Sport Branch, Home Affairs Bureau and Dr. Trisha LEAHY, BBS, Chief Executive, Hong Kong Sports Institute were invited to present the awards to the student sports elites. Adhering to the motto of HKSSA “Yes I Can!”, awardees were encouraged to work hard for a wonderful future.

Leading up to the Rio 2016 Olympic Games, Ms. LO Sin-lam, the Windsurfing Elite Athlete who secured a spot at the game shared how she prepares for her Olympic debut in Rio. Ms. CHAN Yuen-ting, Head Coach of Eastern Football Team and Mr. CHOW Ting-yu, Former World Wushu Champion were also invited to share their happiness and struggle behind success with the awardees, hoping awardees’ passion can be fired up and brought into full play the spirit of Rio Olympics “Live your passion”.

Speaking at the ceremony, Mr. Dominic Lai, Group Managing Director of A.S. Watson Group said, “Being one of the largest scale student sports elite recognition programmes, the number of HKSSA awardees this year marked a record high. It is encouraging to see that the schools support the awardees very much.”

Mr. Lai continued, “To celebrate the 175th anniversary of A.S. Watson Group, the Group launched a philanthropy programme “Project LOL”, which focuses in 3 areas namely health, education and community, hoping to bring “Lots of Love” and “Lots of Laughs” to the people of Hong Kong and to inject more positive energy into the community. HKSSA has now become one of the large-scale events under Project LOL.”

主辦機構：

協辦機構：



Mr. Eddie Ng Hak-kim, Secretary for Education said, “The Education Bureau has made every effort to nurture and identify students with sports talent through various learning experiences. In schools, the physical education curriculum is broad and balanced to promote students’ interest in sports through a variety of activities. After school lessons, students can also take part in co-curricular activities, like interest groups and school team training, to receive systematic and specialised training, and participate in sports competitions. In addition, talented and outstanding students can further receive special sports training in respective institutions, paving the way for aspiring to be elite athletes.”

“I would like to extend special thanks to A.S. Watson Group for its continuous support for student sports activities in Hong Kong, serving as a role model for enterprises to fulfill their social responsibility. This award has made enormous contributions in encouraging young people to take part in wholesome sports activities and hence establishing an active and healthy lifestyle.”

2015 – 2016 HKSSA Nomination

The HKSSA has gained overwhelming support from local schools over the past eleven years. This year, the number of awardees reaches a record high of 943. Each participating school is entitled to nominate one sports talent every year. All awardees would receive cash scholarship and would be invited to the award presentation ceremony and leadership workshop. Awardees will also have the opportunity to join a sports exchange tour to Mainland China to broaden their horizons.

The Group hopes that students will continue to pursue their dreams, strive for excellence and promote sporting culture actively and inspire others to hold a spirit “Yes I Can!”.

Key Facts about the 943 Winners

There are 545 boys and 398 girls this year with the youngest winner an 8-year-old primary three student. Some awardees are elite athletes while some are already representing Hong Kong in international competitions.

Breakdown of Award Winners by school types:

	No. of students
Primary schools	472
Secondary schools	416
Special schools	55
Total	943

主辦機構：



A.S. Watson Group
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協辦機構：



民政事務局
 Home Affairs Bureau
 教育局
 Education Bureau



Breakdown of Award Winners by sports:

	%
Track and field	33
Swimming	16
Basketball	10
Soccer	9
Table tennis	4
Volleyball	5
Badminton	3
Handball	3
Others (e.g. archery, dancing, diving, rugby, squash, fencing, martial arts and skiing)	17

About HKSSA

The HKSSA is the first of its kind in Hong Kong, opening to all primary, secondary and special schools with the aims of commending one sports talent from each school every year and identifying students with potential in sport through nomination from schools. Launched in 2005, the award continues to act as a corporate drive to help build an active sporting culture for Hong Kong, and the years to come.

The HKSSA is supported by the Education Bureau, Home Affairs Bureau, Social Welfare Department, Association of Principals of Government Secondary Schools, Hong Kong Association of Heads of Secondary Schools, Hong Kong Subsidized Secondary Schools Council, Hong Kong Direct Subsidy Scheme Schools Council, Hong Kong Aided Primary School Heads Association, Union of Government Primary School Headmasters & Headmistresses, Subsidized Primary Schools Council, Hong Kong Special Schools Council, Hong Kong Schools Sports Federation, The Outstanding Young Persons Association, Hong Kong Elite Athletes Association and The Chinese Athletes Educational Foundation.

Details of the awards

Each award winner is presented:

- Award Certificate
- Cash Scholarship of HK\$500
- Opportunity to participate in a leadership workshop specially organised for award winners
- Opportunity to be selected for a sports exchange tour to Tianjin and Qinhuangdao during 2016 summer vacation (subjected to screening)

主辦機構:



協辦機構:



About A.S. Watson Group

Established in Hong Kong in 1841, A.S. Watson Group is the largest international health and beauty retailer in Asia and Europe with 12,400 stores in 25 markets. Each year, over 3 billion customers and members shop with our 13 retail brands, both in stores and online.

In Hong Kong, we operate over 650 stores under four retail brands – Watsons, PARKnSHOP, FORTRESS, and Watson’s Wine. In addition, we manufacture and distribute high quality drinking water brand Watsons Water, as well as famous juice drinks Mr. Juicy and Sunkist.

For the fiscal year 2015, A.S. Watson Group recorded revenue of HK\$151.9billion. We have over 120,000 employees worldwide, including 12,800 in Hong Kong.

A.S. Watson Group is also a member of the world-renowned multinational conglomerate CK Hutchison Holdings Limited, which has major interests in ports and related services, retail, infrastructure, energy and telecommunications in over 50 countries.

Please visit www.aswatson.com for more in-depth information about A.S. Watson Group and its brands. You may also stay in touch with us via our digital presence (eCommerce, social media, mobile app & more); more details are at <http://www.aswatson.com/our-customers/digitalasw/>.

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