

For Immediate Release

“THE CLEAN HALF”

October 10, 2009
Marathon Swimming Open Water Relay

Asia’s Only Marathon Relay Event, and Ranked as one of the World’s Top Global Swims

Hong Kong is hosting the 3rd annual “*Clean Half*” event, which is a Marathon Swimming Open Water Relay, and now ranked as one of the world’s top open water swims (www.10kswimmer.com). This event will be staged between Stanley Main Beach and Deepwater Bay on October 10th, starting at 11am. This event is modeled after the world famous Maui Channel Crossing Relay Swim. The course chosen from Stanley to Deepwater Bay is along some of the most stunning views that Hong Kong Island has to offer, along a 15km route. This year, there are over 200 people competing in 40 teams (5 people per team), and 5 solo swimmers.

One of the solo swimmers is Marcos Diaz who has come all the way from the Dominican Republic to swim in this event. In 2007, Marcos swam around the island of Manhattan in New York, twice (60 miles), in 22 hours. Heather Osborne is also coming from New Zealand to do the race solo. This is the only swim race in the world that has a “Carbon Neutral” category, which is where each team paddles in a 6-man outrigger canoe, and swims at the same time (as opposed to using a motorboat for support).

In October, Hong Kong’s Clean Half swim race will be featured among 5 other global open water swim events at the World’s Swimming Coach’s Clinic in Mexico City, as an example of innovation for the sport of swimming with the Carbon Neutral category, and because of its success in bringing fun, exciting open water swimming events to Asia.

Each team will have five members, with a boat to accompany each team. Each swimmer will swim for 20 minutes for the first rotation through the team, with 10 minute intervals thereafter until the race finishes in Deepwater Bay.

The race is also organized to highlight the importance of Hong Kong’s ocean and water environment. The setting is located on “Clean Half” of Hong Kong Island, and allows competitors to enjoy scenery that is as stunning as Hawaii. Swimmers can enjoy an extreme team competition, while appreciating one of Hong Kong’s biggest assets, its harbour and ocean surroundings. Without this, Hong Kong would not be what it is today.

Some of the proceeds from the event will be donated to Project Kaisei, which is a global organization recently established in Hong Kong and San Francisco, aimed at cleaning up our ocean (www.projectkaisei.org).

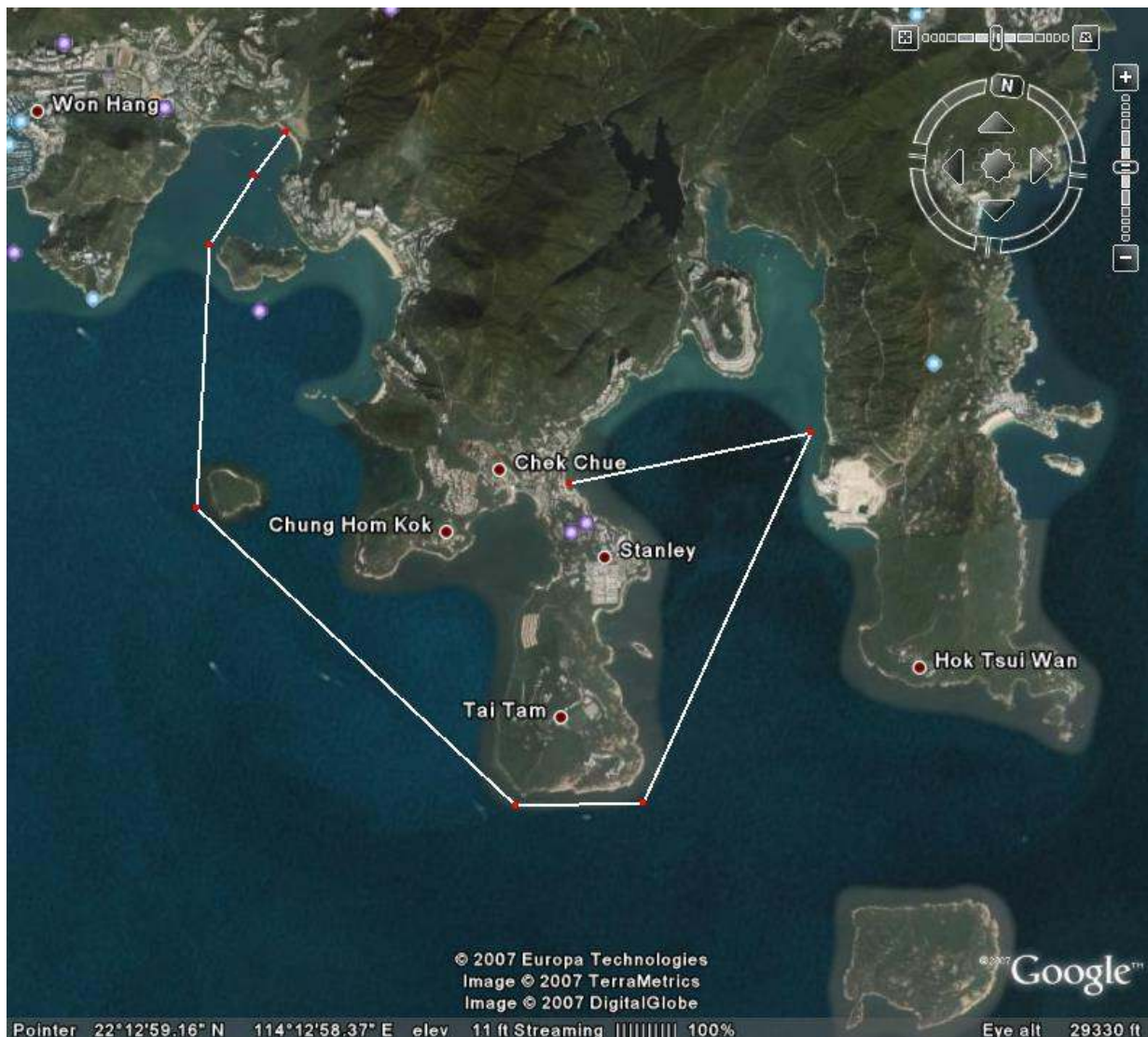
The race will begin at 11:00am on October 10th at the main beach in Stanley, and end in Deepwater Bay about 4 hours later.

For more information, please contact Doug Woodring at: doug@projectkaisei.org
9020-3949.

www.thecleanhalf.com

Sponsorship for this event has come from the Eclipse Group of Restaurants, Orca sportswear, and SABMiller

“THE CLEAN HALF” ROUTE MAP



Photos from last year's Clean Half. Higher resolution images can be obtained from Doug Woodring.





