



Annual General Meeting 2015

Chairman's Report

I have the honor to present to you my first Chairman's Report. The Hong Kong Baseball Association went through a busy and encouraging year of 2014/2015.

I. Baseball Games

International Tournaments and Exposure

The Association sent teams to play the international and regional tournaments. Subvented by the Arts and Sport Development Fund, Hong Kong Men Team participated in the 17th Asian Grams in Incheon, Korea on 21-28 September 2014; Hong Kong Women's Team took part in the Women's Baseball World Cup in Miyazaki, Japan on 1-7 September 2014; and Hong Kong 15U Team joined the II U15 Baseball World Cup in Sinaloa, Mexico on 31 July to 10 August 2014.

The 18U development team participated in the Western Pacific Series on Guam on 22-24 August 2014 while the 12U baseball players played the 4th Cross-Strait 12U Baseball Tournament in Taichung on 13-17 August 2014.

We also recommended our affiliated clubs to play the overseas invitation games this summer and Ho Man Tin Baseball Club sent teams to play the Zhongshan Panda Junior International Baseball Tournament and Penghu International "A" Nankyu Baseball Championship; Sham Shui Po Baseball Club played the X MUNDIAL HIT, Juvenile Baseball Team and Cadet Baseball Team, in Nettuno, Rome, Italy; Shatin Sports Association Baseball Club also participated in Taipei International AA Baseball Invitational Tournament 2014

In addition, HKIEd baseball team won the Samsung 57th Festival of Sport – Hong Kong University Baseball Tournament 2014 and represented Hong Kong to play the 10th All China University Baseball League Final in Wuxi, Jiangsu, China on 21-29 July 2014.



Local International Events and Local Leagues

• Local International Events

With the title sponsored by TOTO (Hong Kong) Limited and sanctioned by the World Baseball Softball Confederation (WBSC), the TOTO WBSC Hong Kong International Baseball Open 2014 was held on 19-22 December 2014. 8 Teams from Korea, Philippines, Russia, Singapore, Taiwan and Hong Kong participated and the Philippines Team won the tournament. The tournament schedule for 2015 has been fixed with 8 teams' participation to be held on 4-7 December 2015.

The Asia Insurance Phoenix Cup 2015 WBSC Hong Kong International Women's Baseball Tournament was successfully held its eight time with the participation of 10 Teams from Australia, Japan, Korea, Singapore, Taiwan and Hong Kong on 6-9 February 2015. The tournament schedule for 2016 has been scheduled to be held on 19-22 February 2016, expecting 8-10 teams to join. The champion team whose name will be carved on the "Defender Cup" that donated by the World Baseball Softball Confederation – Baseball Division (formerly known as International Baseball Federation "IBAF").

• Local Leagues

The Association organised local leagues at different levels. For the reporting period of 2014/2015, a total number of 104 teams was recorded, an increase of 8 teams from the previous year. In the Open Leagues organised, there were 6 teams in Men A Grade, 7 teams in Men B Grade, 23 teams in Men C Grade, 14 teams in Women Group, 13 teams in Kenko league, 16 teams in the beginners groups, 2 teams in Qualifying Group; and 23 teams from local universities, secondary schools and primary schools played the Samsung 58th Festival of Sport 2015.

II. International Meetings and Conferences

- (i) I attended the PONY Asia Pacific Zone Meeting held in Indonesia in January 2015.
- (ii) Mr. Philip Li, President of the Association, attended the Inaugural WBSC General Meeting (Congress) of the World Baseball Softball Confederation held in Hammamet, Tunisia in May 2014.



- (iii) Mr. Allan Mak, Secretary General of the Association, also member-at-large of the Baseball Federation of Asia (BFA) and Editor-in-chief of BFA newsletter “Asian Baseball Cheers” Editorial Group, attended the BFA Executive Committee meetings respectively held in Incheon Korea in September 2014 and Taipei in February 2015; and BFA Editorial Meeting in Taichung in November 2014.

III. Training

(i) Squad Training

To improve the physical fitness and skill level, whole year training programmes were organised for men, youth, women, youth and feeder system.

(ii) District & School Promotion

- District Promotion

The development Programme was structured in three stages with elementary level and intermediate level. We also organised baseball for all age groups for those who were new to baseball and 1,600 enrollment applications in 46 classes were recorded.

- School Promotion

Through the introduction of Joint Schools Sports Training Programme in the School Sports Programme with 51 LCSD subvented training programmes conducted, HKBA was successfully raising the popularity of baseball to the local primary, secondary schools and special schools.

IV. Coach, Umpire and Scorer Training

To meet the standard in organising international events in Hong Kong, we established plans to train up our technical officials. With the support from World Baseball Softball Confederation (WBSC), formerly known as International Baseball Federation (IBAF), we organised Umpire Camp, Technical Commissioner Clinics and introducing computer scoring system in the Scoring Clinic respectively between April and June 2014, and all the clinics were delivered by the international instructors, including Mr. Gustavo Rodriguez, Chair of Umpiring Commission, Mr. Marco Screti, member of Umpiring Commission, Mr. Takeshi Hirabayashi, professional umpire



in Nippon Professional Baseball, Mr. Jim Baba, Chair of Tournament Commission, Ms Anna Maria Painsi, Chair of Scoring Commission. Over 50 participants from local and overseas attended the above clinics with positive feedback received. We also organised the 2nd Asia Umpire Camp with the Chinese Professional Baseball League (CPBL) in January 2015.

The Association recommended two elite coaches, Cheung On Kiu and Tsang Kin Chung, to attend the BFA B-Class Coach Clinic, that organized by Baseball Federation of Asia (BFA), learning from MLB coaches in Taiwan in May 2014. The first ever Level 1 (Elementary) Baseball Coach Certification Programme with IBAF was held in October 2014 and it was delivered by Mr. Peter Caliendo, former Team USA Coach.

The Association's umpires Mr. John Cheng, Ms Eva Moo and Mr. Jonathan Wong were appointed by WBSC and BFA to take part in umpiring at the WBSC 15U Baseball World Cup, WBSC Women's Baseball World Cup and Incheon 17th Asian Games. Ms Nicky To, Sports Manageress was appointed as Technical Commissioner to the WBSC Women's Baseball World Cup 2014. Mr. Wong Pak Wah and Ms Cindy Chan were recommended to attend the on-job training in the WBSC 21U Baseball World Cup in Taichung in November, 2014

For the reporting period, there were 96 coaches actively to give training classes for players of local leagues and school teams at different levels; more than 61 umpires and scorers provided their professional services in the local competitions.

V. Membership and Affiliated Clubs

In addition to the publication of quarterly "RUN", HKBA updated its website and posted news in its Facebook pages. Members' pro-active suggestions and comments demonstrated their enthusiasm in promoting baseball together with The Association. As at end of the reported period, there were 17 clubs out of 26 registered affiliated clubs organised 50 Community Sports Club Projects.

VI. Administration and Publication

The Association holds monthly executive directors' meeting, quarterly directors' meeting and monthly staff meeting to ensure the smooth progress of activities and monitoring of the administrative system. Respective executive committee meeting is also held on a need basis.



To promote the best practice in corporate governance and in response to the advice by LCSD to all National Sports Associations, Our Association has reviewed its Hong Kong team selection and appeal mechanism policy and uploaded it to the Association's website, and enhanced its system of accounting and financial control. To deal with the business and activities in an open, fair and impartial manner, we have set out the basic standards and Codes of Conduct of National Sports Associations for our Officials and Staff as work principles and guidelines.

The Association shall continue publishing its quarterly magazine, "RUN", to earn high reputation locally and abroad. The "RUN" captures reports and news of the local and overseas activities organised by the HKBA, at the same time it also provides a platform for players and baseball lovers to voice out their opinions and comments. For those baseball lovers who do not have the opportunity or time to play baseball, the "RUN" is an alternate baseball field for them to associate them with baseball.

VII. Baseball Fields

In anticipation of the launching of the "Restored Landfill Revitalization Funding Scheme" by the HKSAR Government as well the increase in number of baseball teams in Hong Kong, the Association is keen to look for more venues to place baseball, including building it on the landfill areas.

VIII. International and Local Community Service by Directors

Mr. Philip Li, President was reappointed as a member at the Community Sports Committee, as a member of Student Sport Preparatory Working Group and a Member of the Organizing Committee of Samsung 58th Festival of Sport and honored by the Hong Kong SAR Government Central Policy Unit as one of its consultants.

Mr. Allan Mak, Secretary General, has been re-elected as Member-at-Large of BFA Committee and the chief editor for the BFA Newsletter "Asian Baseball Cheers".

And I feel graceful for being as a member in the Development Commission of the World Baseball Softball Confederation (Baseball Division).



IX. Appreciations

After 9 years with the Association, Mr. Bernard Chan (Member of the Executive Council) retired from the position of Hon. President in August 2014. We are thankful for and in debt of Mr. Chan's contributions and advice to us throughout the past nine years. Through Mr. Chan's introduction, we are honored to have Mr. Andrew Yao to replace Mr. Bernard Chan as the Hon. President position of our Association with immediate effect.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I would like to thank former Hon. President, Mr. Bernard Chan, current Hon. President, Mr. Andrew Yao, Mr. Jackie Chan, Hon. Vice President and all Hon. Advisers for their financial support and guidance over the years; also grateful for Home Affairs Bureau, Leisure and Cultural Services Department for their subvention and continuous support; and thankful to Environmental Protection Department, Sports Federation & Olympic Committee of Hong Kong, China, Hong Kong Sports Institute and the relevant District Councils for their advice and support. I would also like to thank the donors and sponsors for their generosity; our special thanks go to our Ex-president Mr. Laurence Lee for his donation of \$200,000 to set up the Growing Together Baseball Sport Education Fund. Last but not least, I wish to thank all Directors, committee members and volunteers for their continuous support, as well as Office Staff of the Association for their dedication and commitment to work.

Dr. Felix Yip

Chairman of The Hong Kong Baseball Association Limited

October 2015