



Annual General Meeting 2018  
Chairman's Report

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I am pleased to advise that it was another busy and rewarding year of 2017/2018 for Hong Kong Baseball Association.

**I. Baseball Games**

*International Tournaments and Exposure*

It was a record year for the Association to send teams in participating different levels of international and regional tournaments. Our Men Team participated in the 28th Asian Championship in New Taipei City (ended in the 5<sup>th</sup> position of the tournament) in October 2017. This year, Men Team achieved a remarkable performance, 3<sup>rd</sup> place in the XII BFA East Asia Baseball Cup 2018 that was hosted by Hong Kong in June and finished 6<sup>th</sup> place in the 18<sup>th</sup> Asian Games in August. The Association made its first ever participation by selecting student-athletes to participate in the 2018 FISU World University Baseball Championship in Chiayi City of Chinese Taipei in July 2018.

Our Women Team was ranked 4<sup>th</sup> in the inaugural 1st BFA Women's Baseball Asia Cup in Hong Kong in September 2017 and met the required qualification to WBSC Women's Baseball World Cup that was held in August 2018 in Viera, Florida and ended in 10<sup>th</sup> position of the tournament. Hong Kong Bravo Women Team participated in the 7<sup>th</sup> LG Cup International Women's Baseball Tournament 2017 in Seoul, Korea in August 2017 with a final rank of 7<sup>th</sup> position of the tournament.

To enhance the competition experience for youth athletes, the Association has sent them to international tournaments. Our U18 Team participated in the XII BFA U18 Baseball Championship in Miyazaki, Japan in September 2018 with the overall 6<sup>th</sup> position of the tournament. Our U15 Team participated in the 9<sup>th</sup> BFA U15 Baseball in Izu-city, Japan in November 2017 and ended in the 6<sup>th</sup> position of the tournament, while our U12 Team completed the X BFA U12 Baseball Championship with 5<sup>th</sup> position in the entire tournament in Chinese Taipei in September 2018.

The Association also recommended our affiliated clubs or club teams to participate in international invitational events for the players and coaches to gain experience in games and encourage them to further strengthen their skills.



The Education University of Hong Kong Baseball Team won the University League in Hong Kong and represented Hong Kong to the Chinese National Universities League in Shenzhen in July 2017 and was awarded the Sportsmanship Award. Kwun Tong Pony Youth League participated in the PONY BASEBALL Asia-Pacific Zone BRONCO Tournament in Fukuoka, Japan in July 2017.

### Local International Events and Local Leagues

#### • Major Local International Event

To support women in sports development and empower them, the Association proposed and bided to host the first ever Women's Baseball Asian Cup in Hong Kong. This major international event served as a qualifier in Asia for the WBSC Women's Baseball World Cup. Six women's national teams including Chinese Taipei, Hong Kong, India, Japan, Korea and Pakistan played in the tournament. 10 games out of 15 were broadcasted online and recorded a live stream of over 400,000 views one week after the event. Team Japan finished the first and Chinese Taipei, Korea and Hong Kong secured the remaining places in the top four.

Hong Kong also hosted XII BFA East Asia Baseball Cup 2018 in June 2018, in addition to Hong Kong, other four national teams included Indonesia, Philippines, Singapore and Thailand.

#### • Local International Events

With the continuous funding support from Home Affairs Bureau and Leisure and Cultural Services Department of Hong Kong SAR and sanctioned by the World Baseball Softball Confederation (WBSC), the Association organised two annually local international events. Hong Kong International Baseball Open (HKIBO) was held in December 2017. This year we introduced national team pool and club team pool. The result in the national team pool could generate Baseball World Ranking point. 3 national teams included teams from Hong Kong, Russia and Singapore, and Hong Kong secured the champion title. For the club team category, 4 club teams from Australia, China, Hong Kong and Philippines participated.

The 10<sup>th</sup> edition of Phoenix Cup Hong Kong International Women's Baseball Tournament was successfully held with the participation of 12 Teams from China, Guam, Japan, Singapore, Taiwan and Hong Kong in February 2018 and Hong Kong Allies was ranked 3<sup>rd</sup> in the tournament.



#### • Local Leagues

The Association organised local leagues at different levels. For the reporting period of 2017/2018, a total of 105 teams participated in the Hong Kong Baseball Open League, of which 6 teams in Men A Grade, 11 teams in Men B Grade, 32 teams in Men C Grade, 5 teams in Women Grade A, 10 teams in Women Grade B, 6 teams in Kenko Grade A, 15 teams in Kenko Grade B, Kenko League is the league with men and women players mixed together. 20 teams in the novice competition, with participants from children to adults. 25 teams from local universities, secondary schools and primary schools played the Samsung 61<sup>st</sup> Festival of Sport that was held in April to May 2018.

With the special grant from the HKSAR government, the Association organised Celebration of the 20th Anniversary of the Establishment of the HKSAR - Baseball Six Competition in the year of 2017, 30 games were scheduled.

## **II. International Meetings and Conferences**

- (i) Mr. Philip Li, President of the Association, and I represented the Association to attend the Baseball Federation of Asia (BFA) Congress in Yilan, Taiwan in July 2017. To vote in the election of BFA Executive Board, the Association nominated Mr. Mak Nin Fung, our Secretary General, to run for the election for the position of Executive Member. Mr. Mak was successfully be re-elected.
- (ii) On behalf of the Association, I attended the 2nd WBSC Congress on 12-15 October 2017 in Gaborone, Botswana, South Africa in October 2017. In the Congress, WBSC reported the performance of world cups and the development of Mini Baseball and Baseball5™. Hong Kong Baseball Association was awarded “Baseball Federation of the Year” in 2015.

I also attended the annual PONY Asia-Pacific Zone Board of Directors Meeting in January 2018 in Miyazaki, Japan, to discuss the youth baseball development in the region in Miyazaki, Japan in January 1018 with nearly 30 representatives from 11 countries/regions attended.



- (iii) Mr. Allan Mak, Secretary General of the Association, also Member-at-Large of the Baseball Federation of Asia (BFA) attended the BFA Executive Committee meetings in January and September in 2018. He represented the Association to report the post-event report of hosting the first Women's Baseball Asian Cup in Hong Kong and XII BFA East Asia Baseball Cup 2018.

### **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.

Starting from January 2018, Home Affairs Bureau launched the Five-Year Development Programme for Team Sports (the Programme), provides an additional funding support from the Arts and Sports Development Fund (ASDF) for eligible National Sports Association (NSAs) to assist them in achieving better results in regional and international tournaments, with a view to improving performance in the Asian Games. Baseball is one of the Team Sports. With the funding support, we could have recruited a full-time professional coach to assist or lead the Hong Kong Team to prepare for and participate in the major events.

- (ii) **Pilot Funding Scheme for Youth Sports Exchange**

Through the subvention from LCSD to organise international sports exchange programmes for the youth, its aims are to raise the sports skill level of the youth, broaden their horizons; and establish their network with counterpart country/city. The Association organised Youth Women's Baseball Japan Exchange Programme in Japan and Exchange Programme between Hong Kong and Australia with mixed boys and girls.

- (iii) **Funding Scheme for Youth Exchange in the Mainland**

With the sponsoring from Commission on Youth, the Association organised exchange programme with Shanghai in December 2017 under Funding Scheme for Youth Exchange in the Mainland.



(iv) 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 nearly 1,800 enrollment applications in 51 classes were recorded.

(v) School Promotion

Through the introduction of Joint Schools Sports Training Programme in the School Sports Programme with 63 LCSD subvented training programmes conducted, over 2,100 students enjoyed the training. 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 continuous support from World Baseball Softball Confederation (WBSC) and subvented by Leisure and Cultural Services Department, the Association organised WBSC Baseball Technical Officials Seminars, including Umpire Seminar, Technical Commissioner Seminar and Scoring Seminar, in March 2018. WBSC assigned international instructors, including Mr. Gustavo Rodriguez, Chair of Umpiring Commission, Mr. Takeshi Hirabayashi, a professional umpire in Nippon Professional Baseball, Mr. Jim Baba, Chair of Tournament Commission, Ms. Anna Maria Painsi, Chair of Scoring Commission to Hong Kong for the related training programmes. Nearly 100 officials from China, Chinese Taipei, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Pakistan and Sri Lanka attended the seminars.

The officials of the Association was appointed in a number of international events that organised by International Federation or Asian Federation.

Period	Event	Name of Official	Post
May 2017	13 <sup>th</sup> National Games	WONG Ki Jonathan	Umpire
July 2017	WBSC U-12 Baseball World Cup	WONG Pak Wah	Scorer
July 2017	PONY Baseball Asia Pacific Zone Bronco Tournament	WONG Wai Hung Aaron	Umpire
July 2017	PONY Baseball Asia Pacific Zone Pony Tournament	CHENG Yi Yan John	Umpire
Aug 2017	29th Summer Universiade 2017	MOO Yee Wah Eva	Umpire
Aug 2017	29th Summer Universiade 2017	CHAN Sin Yee Cindy	Scorer
Nov 2017	Asian U15 Baseball Championship	HUEN Kun Chi Leonard	Umpire
Oct 2017	28th Asian Championship	CHEUNG Sui Man	Umpire



To train up more local officials, the Association organised Level 3 (Elementary) Umpire Training Course and Level 3 (Elementary) Scorer Training Course in the year.

For the reporting period, there were 123 coaches actively to give training classes for players of local leagues and school teams at different levels; more than 35 umpires and 25 scorers provided their professional services in local competitions.

## **V. Membership and Affiliated Clubs**

To support environmental protection and saving expenditure of the Association, with effect from January 2018, our publication quarterly "RUN" changed to biannual publication, to issue in May, the month to submit whole year programme report to the Leisure and Cultural Services Department and November after finishing Annual General Meeting. 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 20 clubs out of 35 registered affiliated clubs registered under LCSD Community Sports Club Projects. The clubs organised 51 activities in total with the subvention from LCSD. To enhance the standard of baseball at the community level, we will continue promoting and strengthening the sports development for young players and encourage lifelong participation in sports.

## **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 meetings have also been 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 directors and senior management staff attended the Symposium on Corporate Governance in National Sports Associations - Governance, Leadership and the Future Development of Sports that organised by the Leisure & Cultural Services Department. 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.



## **VII. Recognition**

President Philip Li was awarded Chief Executive's Commendation for Community Service in October 2018 to recognise his significant contributions to Hong Kong.

I was then awarded in the Secretary for Home Affairs' Commendation Scheme 2017 to recognise my outstanding contributions to the development of sports and recreation activities

## **VIII. Growing Together Baseball Sport Education Fund**

The Association was appointed by the Growing Together Baseball Sport Education Fund (the Fund) to keep and handle the Fund application. The Fund was set up to provide financial assistance for technical officials training, administrative staff further education and women's baseball development. Committee members comprise the Association's Counselor, President, Chairman and Secretary General.

## **IX. Appreciations**

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I would like to thank our Hon. President Mr. Andrew Yao, Hon. Vice President Dr. Raymond Chan and Mr. Jackie Chan and all Hon. Advisers for their financial support and guidance over the years; also grateful to 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 too. Last but not the 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**

**The Hong Kong Baseball Association Limited**

October 2018