



Stanley Dragon Boat Association  
96 Stanley Main Street  
Stanley  
Hong Kong

Attn: Alson Wong / Edwin Hou

Hong Kong, June 21, 2007

### **Stanley International Dragonboat Championships 2007**

Dear Alson and Edwin,

Firstly, let me congratulate you on the successful hosting of the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Stanley Dragonboat Championships. In terms of dragon boat racing, your event clearly remains the most colourful and exciting one on our calendar.

However, we have some serious complaints about the **sea traffic arrangements**, i.e. getting to and from the junks on the race day. **The current arrangements are simply not working:** the large shuttle boats are too big and not suitable for ferrying people to and from the junks. Boarding and getting off takes too much time and they take forever to land at each junk. As a result, the queues at the pier are far too long and people are waiting for over an hour just to get on a shuttle boat. This has spoilt the entire event for many of our friends, guests and sponsors (on whom we rely to finance the ever increasing entry fees).

Furthermore, we strongly object to the HK\$ 2500 "registration fee" charged for each junk, in return of which we were given 200 shuttle boat tickets. We were unable to use most of these tickets since it was impossible to get on the large shuttle boats. Instead, we had to pay the operators of the smaller boats, who were efficiently going back and forth to the junks. Thus, in effect, we paid twice. We would have rather used the HK\$ 2500 to rent our own speedboat.

Going forward we propose the following solution:

- 1) You should rely primarily on **small boats** with a capacity of 6-12 people which can ferry passengers **quickly and efficiently** from the pier (or beach) to the junks.
- 2) You should provide either **bigger or more access points** for these small boats, such as the small beach behind the Sea School Pier.
- 3) You **should not charge the HK\$ 2500 registration fee** for the junks since you do not have exclusive right to the waters off Stanley. Instead, you should encourage teams to bring their own speedboats/shuttle boats. You can charge each team a smaller fee (e.g. \$500) for using the respective piers throughout the day.



- 4) You should encourage **as many operators as possible** of small boats (fishermen, etc.) to provide additional shuttle boat service.

We hope you take the above in consideration to make next year's event more enjoyable for spectators and participants alike.

Yours sincerely,

Silvan Colani  
Admiral & Team Captain  
The Liechtenstein Princely Navy

cc: - Director of Marine; Marine Department  
- other team captains