



HONG KONG CHINA CHESS FEDERATION
中國香港國際象棋總會

Hong Kong International Open Chess Championship Concludes Successfully Chinese Players Crowned in Both Categories

(Hong Kong, January 3, 2025) – The 2024 Hong Kong International Open Chess Championship, organized by the Hong Kong China Chess Federation, funded by the Leisure and Cultural Services Department and the Culture, Sports and Tourism Bureau's Arts & Sports Development Fund, and supported by the Sir David Trench Fund for Recreation, has successfully concluded at the Queen Elizabeth Stadium. The event attracted over 200 participants from around 30 regions. Over the course of seven days of intense competition, the champion of the Open Category was ultimately claimed by Chinese GM [Bai Jinshi](#), while the Challenger Category saw fellow Chinese player [Liu Ruhao](#) emerge victorious. Notably, the remarkable 12-year-old CM [Li Yiheng](#) and 16-year-old [Mikail Nur Azmir Chan](#) respectively secured the titles of the Best Hong Kong Player in the Open and Challenger Categories!

Since its inception in 2009, the Hong Kong International Open Chess Championship has now reached its 12th edition, establishing itself as the region's most prestigious chess tournament. This year marked the first time the event was held at the Queen Elizabeth Stadium, drawing numerous world-class players and breaking previous records for both overall participation and the number of players holding FIDE titles. The introduction of separate Open and Challenger Categories allowed for greater inclusivity, enabling more competitors to engage in this prestigious contest.

After an intense series of 9 rounds, the top three positions in the Open Category were claimed by Chinese GM Bai Jinshi, Indian GM [S. P. Sethuraman](#), and Chinese IM [Li Bo](#), while the Challenger Category top three were secured by Chinese and Hong Kong players, including Chinese player Liu Ruhao, Hong Kong player Mikail Nur Azmir Chan and [Yu Lijie](#).

This tournament was also the first time to award norms to players in Hong Kong. Chinese player [Meng Yihan](#) has obtained a norm for “International Master” (IM), further elevating the international level and competitive standards of chess tournaments in the region.



Additionally, several arbiters successfully completed the assessment through this tournament, meeting the standards set by FIDE and obtaining a norm for “International Arbiter” (IA) or “FIDE Arbiter” (FA), thereby enhancing the professionalism and international recognition of Hong Kong arbiters. Together, these accomplishments will strengthen Hong Kong's position as a leading center for chess in Asia.

The champion of the Open Category, Chinese GM Bai Jinshi mentioned, stated, “The overall level of this tournament was remarkable, with the quality of event organization in Hong Kong, the setup of the venue, and the competitive levels of the players all reaching an excellent standard. This is my second time participating in the Hong Kong International Open Chess Championship. My connection with this tournament began 12 years ago, when I first competed in 2012 and achieved second place. Winning the championship this time is a continuation of that experience, which was a wonderful opportunity for me at such a young age. I hope the tournament continues to improve and provides an even better platform for more young players in the future. If given the chance, I would love to participate in the tournament again.”

The champion of the Challenger Category, Chinese player Liu Ruhao, stated, “The tournament felt prestigious to me. I have been learning chess for about fifteen to sixteen years, and I had a significant regret in my childhood for never participating in any international competitions. This tournament has fulfilled that childhood dream. In the tournament, the most memorable moment was encountering a senior from my university in the fourth round. He usually studies at the Hong Kong campus while I am at the Shenzhen campus, and I’m very happy to meet like-minded friends in the tournament and increase our opportunities for engaging.”

The President of the Hong Kong China Chess Federation, KK Chan, remarked, “With the successful hosting of multiple tournaments, the development of chess in Hong Kong is advancing towards greater engagement and profile. In the future, we will continue to commit to organizing more major world tournaments. Next year, we will prepare for an Asian Amateur Chess Tournament with over three hundred participants, and we will organize a Hong Kong chess exchange group with more than one hundred members. We hope to provide chess enthusiasts with more opportunities and platforms to interact and learn from international players.”

~ END ~

For more photos: <http://bit.ly/3PiSb7E>



1) Awardees of the Hong Kong International Open Chess Championship 2024







2) Top 10 Awardees in the Open Category



3) Top 10 Awardees in the Challenger Category



<p>4) The Champion in the Open Category, GM Bai Jinshi from China (Left); the 2nd Place, GM S. P. Sethuraman from India (Right)</p>	<p>5) The Champion of the Challenger Category is Liu Ruhao from China (Right).</p>
	
<p>6) The Best Hong Kong Player in the Open Category is 12-year-old CM Li YiHeng</p>	<p>7) The Best Hong Kong Player in the Challenger Category is 16-year-old Chan, Mikail Nur Azmir</p>
	
<p>8) The Hong Kong International Open Chess Championship 2024, lasting seven consecutive days, was held at the Queen Elizabeth Stadium</p>	<p>9) Several Arbiters have obtained a norm for International Arbiter (IA) and FIDE Arbiter (FA), which has raised the level of professionalism and international recognition of Hong Kong arbiters.</p>

The Hong Kong China Chess Federation

The Hong Kong China Chess Federation (HKCCFL) is an NSA dedicated to promoting chess in Hong Kong. Established in 1960, HKCCFL has been instrumental in fostering the growth of chess within the region, connecting players across all skill levels, and enhancing Hong Kong's international recognition as a prominent chess-playing community.

As a member of FIDE, HKCCFL is committed to cultivating talent and nurturing a vibrant chess culture through regular events and tournaments. Over the years, its efforts have supported the development of skilled players who proudly represent Hong Kong, China in prestigious international competitions, such as the Asian Games and Chess Olympiads. Many of these players have earned esteemed FIDE titles, reflecting the Federation's dedication to excellence in chess. By encouraging participation and supporting schools and chess clubs, HKCCFL ensures chess' continued growth and sustainability for future generations.

The Hong Kong China Chess Federation continues to inspire, educate, and empower individuals through chess, fostering a lifelong passion and building bridges across communities.



Joint PR Consultants Limited

For any enquiry, please contact:

Joint PR Consultants Limited

Eva Tang

Contact: 2155 2346 / 6332 5700

Email: eva@jointpr.hk /

Aleksis Qin

Contact: 2155 2300 / 6678 2914

Email: aleksis.qin@jointpr.hk