



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PRIDE OF HONG KONG TIFFANY CHAN TSZ-CHING CONFIRMS FOR EFG HONG KONG LADIES OPEN

***Defending Champion Supamas Sangchan and Hong Kong Ladies Close
Amateur Championship Winner Stephanie Ho Add Star Power to the City's
Top Ladies' Golf Tournament***

HONG KONG (7 MARCH, 2018) – The 2018 EFG Hong Kong Ladies Open will welcome the return of LPGA Rookie Tiffany Chan Tsz-ching as she looks to regain the prestigious championship she last won in 2016.

Taking place on 11th to 13th May at the Hong Kong Golf Club Old Course, the tournament will once again carry a total prize purse of US\$150,000. The 54-hole event is sanctioned by the China LPGA Tour, Taiwan LPGA, and the Ladies Asia Golf Tour, and supported by the Hong Kong Professional Golfers' Association, and the Hong Kong Golf Association.

24-year-old Chan became the first ever golfer from Hong Kong to qualify for the LPGA after an impressive runner-up finish at Qualifying School at the end of last year. Having turned professional right before the 2017 EFG Hong Kong Ladies Open in June, the Tuen Mun native strung together a series of strong results on the Symetra Tour, which got her a place in the final round of Qualifying School.

In her first ever LPGA event in the Bahamas in January, Chan played confidently to make the cut and eventually finished in tied 66th place. Chan said:

“I am very excited to be given the chance to play at the EFG Hong Kong Ladies Open again. I have had so much support over the years from my friends and family, the fans, EFG, and Hong Kong Golf Club, and playing in front of my home crowd gives me an opportunity to thank them personally for their constant encouragement. Even though I have only played a handful of tournaments on the LPGA Tour, I have already learnt a lot and I hope I can play well in Fanling so to give everyone something to cheer about.”

Defending Champion Supamas Sangchan has also confirmed her participation as she attempts to become the first player to win the EFG Hong Kong Ladies Open two years in a row. The Thai star ended her Ladies European Tour season last year with five consecutive top 30 finishes, with a tied 21st place in her last tournament at the Dubai Ladies Classic.



The 21-year-old commented:

“Winning the EFG Hong Kong Ladies Open last year gave me so much confidence and it really helped me finish my season well. I really like the Old Course at the Hong Kong Golf Club, which suits my game very well. No doubt the field will be very strong again, but for sure I am looking forward to returning to Hong Kong, and hopefully I can defend my title.”

The 2017 Hong Kong Ladies Close Amateur Championship winner Stephanie Ho will provide another spark to this year’s open. One of Tiffany’s closest friends from childhood, Ho has recently put her entertainment career on a temporary hold to concentrate on her golf. The pop singer’s determined efforts was given its just reward when she took the Close Amateur Championship crown after sinking a 30-foot putt to beat Hu Jing in the playoff.

The 25-year-old said:

“It has been a dream ride over the last few months for me, winning the Hong Kong Ladies Close Amateur Championship and receiving an invite to play at the EFG Hong Kong Ladies Open. Growing up with Tiffany, playing golf professionally was one of my dreams. While golf has taken a back seat the last few years as I pursued my singing career, I was so glad to have the opportunity to commit to golf again and proving to myself I can still do it. Being able to compete against Tiffany and so many world class players again is a dream come true, and I am looking forward to the challenge.”

EFG will continue to support the growth of ladies’ golf in Hong Kong through its title sponsorship of the tournament, as well as of Chan who has been a beneficiary of the EFG Young Athletes Foundation since 2009.

Albert Chiu, Asia Pacific Chief Executive, EFG, commented:

“It is a real privileged for EFG to once again be the title sponsor of the Hong Kong Ladies Open. Nurturing young sporting talents, especially in golf, has been deeply rooted in our culture for a decade. Aside from supporting this wonderful tournament, we were the sponsor of the Hong Kong Golf Association’s Junior Development Programme for a number of years from 2008, where Tiffany and Stephanie were both participants. As Tiffany embarks her journey on the LPGA Tour, we will continue to support her, but at the same time, carry on with our mission to unearth and guide young local sporting talents and hope that they can one day make Hong Kong proud. The EFG Hong Kong Ladies Open provides a unique platform for us to do just that.”

Arnold Wong, Captain of the Hong Kong Golf Club, added:

“The Hong Kong Golf Club is delighted to be hosting the EFG Hong Kong Ladies Open for the fourth time, and to welcome back Tiffany Chan, who has firmly put Hong Kong on the world map of golf through her determination and positive attitude. Our tournament has always attracted some of the best players from the Greater China region and beyond, and the



competition is always fierce. It is a popular event for players and fans alike, and offers a platform for young local amateurs to hone their skills against seasoned professionals.”

Lee Jeong-hwa of South Korea was the inaugural champion in 2015, while there was a home win for Chan the following year. In winning last year’s event, Supamas was flawless in the first two days, carding a total of nine birdies without a single blemish. She followed up with a strong finish on the final day with birdies on the 6th, 9th, and 10th.

- End -

Photo Captions:

Photo 1 – (Left to Right) Mr Albert Chiu, Asia Pacific Chief Executive, EFG, LPGA rookie Tiffany Chan Tsz-ching, Stephanie Ho, reigning champion of Hong Kong Ladies Close Amateur Championship, and Mr Arnold Wong, Captain, Hong Kong Golf Club, pose for photos with the EFG Hong Kong Ladies Open trophy at the event's launch press conference.

Photo 2 - LPGA rookie Tiffany Chan Tsz-ching (Left) and reigning champion of Hong Kong Ladies Amateur Champion Stephanie Ho will resume their friendly but competitive rivalry at the 2018 EFG Hong Kong Ladies Open this year.

Photo 3 - LPGA rookie Tiffany Chan Tsz-ching (Left) and reigning champion of Hong Kong Ladies Amateur Champion Stephanie Ho take part in a speed putting challenge after the 2018 EFG Hong Kong Ladies Open Launch Press Conference.

For further information, please contact:

Kitty Wu

E: aromakwu@gmail.com

M: +852 9132 4588

About EFG Hong Kong Ladies Open

Organised and hosted by The Hong Kong Golf Club, the fourth edition of the EFG Hong Kong Ladies Open takes place between 11- 13 May and features a field of over 100 players from Asia and around the world, it is the first ladies’ tournament in Hong Kong in which players can earn Rolex World Ranking points.



The event is tri-sanctioned by the China LPGA (CLPGA), LPGA of Taiwan (TLPGA), and Ladies Asian Golf Tour (LAGT), supported by the Hong Kong Golf Association (HKGA) and the Hong Kong Professional Golfers' Association (HKPGA), features a total prize purse of US\$150,000. Entry for spectators to the tournament is free.

The 2018 EFG Hong Kong Ladies Open is title sponsored by EFG Bank.

For more information about the EFG Hong Kong Ladies Open please visit the Official Facebook page at www.facebook.com/efghongkongladiesopen and website at www.hkladiesopen.com.

About The Hong Kong Golf Club

The Hong Kong Golf Club was founded in 1889 and is considered one of Asia's pre-eminent golfing establishments. Home to three 18-hole courses at its site at Fanling in the northern New Territories, and a further nine holes in Deep Water Bay on Hong Kong Island, the Club lies at the very centre of the development of golf in Hong Kong.

The host of numerous charitable events throughout the year, the Club is a key supporter of the Hong Kong Golf Association's junior programme and provides golf tuition to students from schools in the local Sheung Shui and Fanling districts. Since 1959 the Club has been the venue for the Hong Kong Open, a European and Asian Tour co-sanctioned tournament, making it one of only two international venues - the other being Augusta National, home of the Masters Tournament - to have hosted a world-class championship every year for more than half a century.

About EFG International

EFG International is a global private banking group offering private banking and asset management services and is headquartered in Zurich. EFG International's group of private banking businesses operates in around 40 locations worldwide. Its registered shares (EFGN) are listed on the SIX Swiss Exchange.