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INTERNATIONAL CAST ALL SET TO CHALLENGE TIFFANY CHAN TSZ-CHING FOR THE EFG HONG KONG LADIES OPEN TITLE

China LPGA Tour comes in as a sanctioning body for the very first time

HONG KONG (17 MAY, 2017) – An international cast of talented female golfers will await Tiffany Chan Tsz-ching as she returns to Hong Kong to defend her EFG Hong Kong Ladies Open next month. Taking place at the Hong Kong Golf Club’s Old Course from 9 to 11 June, over 110 players from 17 nations and territories will look to hit peak form that weekend to take away the coveted trophy, Rolex Ranking Points, as well as a big bag of confidence.

With the China LPGA Tour joining the LPGA of Taiwan, and the Ladies Asian Golf Tour for the first time as a sanctioning body, the Greater China contingent is stronger than ever before at the three-day 54-hole championship.

Li Jiayun, who finished in tied-5th last year, will lead a strong group of 15 players from China. Chinese Taipei will have nearly double that number, at 29, with Kuo Ai-Chen, Yeh Hsin-Ning, Hanna Chen, and Chen I-Wen amongst the favourites to feature on Sunday 11 June at the US\$150,000 tournament. Tiffany, who has enjoyed an excellent season representing the University of Southern California in her final year of college, will be the overwhelming home favourite, while local seasoned professionals Michelle Sun and Jannet Sheng Qiu-yan will also be looking for a good showing at the third edition of the event.

28-year-old Guangzhou native Li said:

“The EFG Hong Kong Ladies Open is a high quality tournament that I enjoy playing at very much and I am excited to return this year to try and improve on my tied-5th place finish that I achieved last year.”

Kuo, who turned professionals in 2009 and winner of the 2015 Taifong Ladies Open, added:

“The EFG Hong Kong Ladies Open is an excellently run tournament with a great vibe and high quality competitors and this is why I come back every year to compete. With Tiffany in the field after all her achievements in the last 12 months, Hong Kong has so much to be proud of and, I am sure the atmosphere will be electric. I can’t wait to be a part of it.”



Other players from the region to keep an eye on at this year's championship include Sharmila Nicollet of India, Korea's Hwang Ye-Nah, Thai player Saranporn Langkulgasettrin. The tournament will also look forward to welcoming golfers the likes of Australia, Brunei, England, Germany, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, the Philippines, South Africa, and Switzerland.

Albert Chiu, Head of Asia Region of EFG International, said:

“The EFG Hong Kong Ladies Open is truly an international tournament and we are proud to support the growth of it through our title sponsorship. It is great to see some of our elite junior programme participants playing at the 2017 EFG Hong Kong Open, which will no doubt play a big part in perfecting their golf game.”

Arnold Wong, Captain of Hong Kong Golf Club, commented:

“The Hong Kong Ladies Open has always enjoyed the support of the LPGA of Taiwan, the Ladies Asian Golf Tour, the HKPGA, and the HKGA since the inaugural event. This year, we are delighted to add the China LPGA Tour to the list of sanctioning bodies, as well as welcoming EFG as the tournament title sponsor. With this wealth of support, we are looking forward to the best EFG Hong Kong Ladies Open yet.”

Through a three-year title sponsorship agreement, EFG is committed to leverage the EFG Hong Kong Ladies Open platform to help grow golf in Hong Kong and nurture budding talents. The three-day 54-hole championship will be sanctioned by the China LPGA Tour, the LPGA of Taiwan, and the Ladies Asian Golf Tour, and also supported by the Hong Kong Professional Golfers' Association, and the Hong Kong Golf Association.

The tournament will see over 100 of professional and amateur golfers battle it out for a share of the US\$150,000 prize purse. There will be a cut after two rounds, with only the top half of the field competing on the final day. Entry to the event is free. For further information on the 2017 EFG Hong Kong Ladies Open, please visit www.facebook.com/efghongkongladiesopen/

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Released by Roco Communications on behalf of the Hong Kong Golf Club.

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About EFG Hong Kong Ladies Open

Organised and hosted by The Hong Kong Golf Club, the third edition of the EFG Hong Kong Ladies Open takes place between 9-11 June 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 Tour (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 2017 EFG Hong Kong Ladies Open is title sponsored by EFG Bank and is additionally sponsored by Anessa, Bar Pacific, Golf Digest Hong Kong, San Miguel, SaSa, Shiseido, Titleist, Under Armour and Vivienne Westwood. Friends of Asia Hong Kong is the Official Charity Partner.

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

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.