

Media Release

EFG Young Athletes Foundation Announces New Scholarship on its 8th Anniversary

Hong Kong, 8 December 2017

Swiss private bank's charity arm looks to nurture the next Tiffany Chan to be the future pride of Hong Kong following the success of its Global Sports Ambassador on the world stage of golf

EFG, the sponsor of Tiffany Chan Tsz-ching, Hong Kong's first ever to qualify for the LPGA Tour, has launched a new scholarship programme in Hong Kong under its EFG Young Athletes Foundation.

Founded on this day in 2009, the foundation was previously a golf-focused programme aimed at supporting and nurturing young local elites in the sport. Chan herself, from the age of 14, along with the likes of Stephanie Ho Ngan-si, Steven Lam Tsz-fung, and Leon D'Souza were beneficiaries of this unique development programme.

With funds and supporting infrastructure in place for Chan from her early teenage years, the 24-year-old has enjoyed a 10-year relationship with bank, which has guided her through her academic career, as well as her remarkable amateur and college golf adventures.

Mr Albert Chiu, CEO, Asia Pacific, EFG Bank, said:

"We are delighted to launch the EFG Young Athlete Foundation Scholarship. The mission of our foundation has always been to discover and nurture young, home grown talents and help them reach their full potential, so they can hopefully make Hong Kong proud one day. This was how we started our relationship with Tiffany 10 years ago when she was a young, enthusiastic golfer who showed us the fight in her even at such a tender age. Her determination, focus, and maturity beyond her years were just some of her qualities that really impressed us. All of us at EFG are so proud to see her realised her dream of playing on the LPGA Tour a mere decade ago from our initial introduction."

"As Tiffany begins this new chapter of her professional life, our fund will continue to support her until she finds her feet and establishes herself in the upper echelon of women's golf. This is aligned with our foundation's objective of looking after our scholars until they reach the age of 30 should they need it. With our new programme, we have extended it to all sports in Hong Kong, and it is our plan to shortlist five finalists by March, with the winning scholar announced soon after that."

Tuen Mun born and bred Chan became the first Hong Konger to qualify for the LPGA Tour following a flawless display at the third round of LPGA Q School last week, where she finished runner up, one shot behind the champion. She will be in Hong Kong during the festive season before the tour tees off in the Bahamas on 26-29 January.

Chan commented:

“I am thrilled to have made it to the LPGA Tour. It has been a long and hard journey, and I gave everything I have. I am just really pleased and proud of myself to have made it. I am delighted to help with the launch of the EFG Young Athletes Foundation Scholarship, which has helped me to no end over the course of my academic and golf career over the past 10 years. People often think scholarships are just about money, but when you are a teenager and finding your way through making sport your career, it is proper guidance on the physical elements of your chosen discipline, mental approach to the game, as well as having someone to keep your feet firmly on the ground that you really need. EFG Bank and its Foundation have really played a huge role in my progress through the golfing ranks. At the same time, I also need to thank everyone who has assisted me through this wonderful adventure including the Hong Kong Government, Sports Institute, Hong Kong Golf Association, Hong Kong Golf Club and the clients and staff of EFG and donors who has generously donated to the EFG Young Athlete Foundation. I hope the chosen scholar of the Foundation’s programme can benefit as much as I have, and that I can somehow inspire them to be the best they can be.”

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About EFG Young Athletes Foundation

The Hong Kong branch of EFG Bank AG first ventured into golf in March 2009 when it became the sponsor of the Hong Kong Golf Association’s Junior Development Programme. To further develop this initiative, a Charitable Foundation – EFG Young Golfers Foundation – was created on 8 December 2009 with the objective to promote and support the personal and physical education and development of young people in Hong Kong. The likes of Tiffany Chan Tsz-ching, Stephanie Ho Ngan-si, Steven Lam Tsz-fung, Leon D’Souza were all beneficiaries of this programme.

The foundation changed its name to “EFG Young Athletes Foundation” in 2014 to expand its support for young local athletes across all disciplines.

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