|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| WEBDOCSHEADER.jpg | Rolex logo | rcsrlogo.jpg |

for immediate release
28 January 2016

ROLEX China Sea Race 2016

starts Wednesday 23 March

With less than month to go until the entry deadline for this year’s Rolex China Sea Race, the entry list already features 30 boats committed to this 565nm Category 1 Offshore race which will start on 23 March in Hong Kong’s Victoria Harbour and finish, depending on the size of boat and the conditions encountered, anything from two to five days later in the Philippines at Subic Bay.

The current entry list features previous winners of the Sunday Telegraph Trophy for line honours, including Sam Chan (1998) campaigning the latest incarnation of *FreeFire* and Geoff Hill (2012) with *Antipodes* (formerly *Genuine Risk*)together with several IRC Overall winners. On *Standard Insurance Centennial*, Ernesto Echauz’s name appears twice on the China Sea Race Trophy (1998 and 2008), while Jono Mahony’s *Zanzibar* took the title in 2012. Sam Chan features on this trophy as well, winning IRC Overall in 2004.

The race record of 47h 43m 07s has stood since Karl Kwok set it on *Beau Geste* in the year 2000 and is nearly three hours faster than any line honours winner has recorded since. With up to 40 entries expected across five divisions, the 2016 edition of this blue water classic promises to be a riveting competition, with tracking by Yellowbrick allowing those left on shore to follow the action.

* End -

**About Royal Hong Kong Yacht Club**
Royal Hong Kong Yacht Club (RHKYC) is one of the oldest sports clubs in Hong Kong and is proud of its rich, colourful history, which stretches back over 160 years of social and competitive sailing and rowing. RHKYC organises a full calendar of local and international racing for both keel boats and dinghies, ranging from round-the-cans to Category 1 offshore races. The Club also provides sailing courses for members and non-members at various levels to nurture the development of sailing.

**About Rolex**

Leading brand of the Swiss watch industry, Rolex, headquartered in Geneva, enjoys an unrivalled reputation for quality and expertise the world over. Its Oyster watches, all certified as chronometers for their precision, are symbols of excellence, performance and prestige. Pioneer in the development of the wristwatch as early as 1905, the brand is at the origin of numerous major watchmaking innovations, such as the Oyster, the first waterproof wristwatch, launched in 1926, and the Perpetual rotor self-winding mechanism introduced in 1931. Rolex has registered over 400 patents in the course of its history. A truly integrated and independent manu­facturing company, Rolex designs, develops and produces in-house all the essential components of its watches, from the casting of the gold alloys to the machining, crafting, assembly and finishing of the movement, case, dial and bracelet. Rolex is also actively involved in supporting the arts, sports, exploration, the spirit of enterprise, and the environment through a broad palette of sponsoring activities, as well as philanthropic programmes.

For enquiry:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Koko MuellerPR & Communications ManagerTel.: +852 2239 0342 / +852 9488 7497Fax: +852 2838 5738 +852 2572 5399email: Koko.Mueller@rhkyc.org.hkRoyal Hong Kong Yacht ClubKellett Island, Causeway BayHong KongRHKYC website: [www.rhkyc.org.hk](http://www.rhkyc.org.hk) | Lindsay LyonsAssistant Manager – Sailing and PromotionTel: +852 2239 0391Email: Lindsay.Lyons@rhkyc.org.hkFax: +852 2239 0364Royal Hong Kong Yacht ClubKellett IslandCauseway BayHong Kong |