

Press Release

Top-level men's tennis returns to Hong Kong at Bank of Communications Hong Kong International Tennis Challenge 2022

(10 November 2022, HONG KONG) Hong Kong Tennis Association today announced the staging of the Bank of Communications Hong Kong International Tennis Challenge 2022 (BOCHKITC), a new three-day exhibition tennis event to be held from **23-25 December 2022 at Victoria Park Tennis Stadium** and supported by title sponsor Bank of Communications. Headlined by three top 20 men's stars, the event marks the first time top ranked male tennis players have competed in Hong Kong in almost 20 years. Supported by the Hong Kong Government, the tournament will celebrate the 25th anniversary of the HKSAR, whilst promoting sports, culture and a healthy lifestyle, championing tourism and showcasing Hong Kong on the world stage.

The player field will be led by World No.9 Taylor Fritz, World No.11 Hubert Hurkacz and 2022 US Open semifinalist Frances Tiafoe. Joining the trio will be Hong Kong's two-time Junior Grand Slam doubles champion Coleman Wong, China's No.2 player Wu Yibing and a soon-to-be announced sixth star. The tournament will adopt an exciting knock out singles format with multiple intriguing matches being played each day over the three-day event period.

Commenting on the announcement, Mr. Philip Mok, President of Hong Kong Tennis Association said: "We are extremely proud to mark the return of top-flight men's tennis and the 25th anniversary of the HKSAR with a unique experience for sports fans. Taylor, Hubert and Frances are three of the most exciting young players on tour today and Wu Yibing and Hong Kong's own Coleman represent the future of Chinese tennis. It will be a treat for both local and international fans to watch these rising stars competing with the world's best at what is set to be an enthralling showcase for men's tennis that will help put Hong Kong firmly back on the international event calendar, whilst promoting tennis, sports and healthy living in the community. We thank our title sponsor, Bank of Communications and the Hong Kong Government for their invaluable support to stage this one-of-a-kind tournament."

24-year-old Taylor Fritz will arrive in Hong Kong after a season that saw him capture the prestigious Masters 1000 title at Indian Wells (ending Rafael Nadal's 22-match win streak) and break into the world's top 10, reaching a high of No.8 in October. The American No.1 bolstered his year by picking up further titles on grass at Eastbourne and on hard courts in Tokyo, winning titles on three separate continents in 2022. The former Junior No.1 also reached his maiden Grand Slam quarter-final at Wimbledon and will compete alongside the year's top players at the ATP Finals in Turin next week.

Hubert Hurkacz announced his tenure among the tennis elite with a run to his maiden ATP Masters 1000 singles title at the Miami Open in 2021. The 25-year-old Pole then downed No.2 seed Daniil Medvedev and Roger Federer (in his final professional singles match) at Wimbledon to reach his first Grand Slam semi-final. Further titles at Metz and Delray Beach propelled him to a year-end finish of World No.9, the highest singles ranking ever achieved by a Polish player. The current World No.11 produced another top-tier season in 2022 with a title at Halle and second Masters 1000 final in Montreal and fans will relish the chance to see the 6'5" star's lethal serve and all-court game in action.

Frances Tiafoe, who also hails from the United States, will make his Hong Kong debut off the back of a breakthrough 2022 season where he reached his first Grand Slam singles semi-final at the US Open, defeating top-10 players Rafael Nadal and Andrey Rublev enroute. The 24-year-old backed up his US Open run with finals at Tokyo and Estoril during the year. Long regarded as the next big American hope in tennis and currently ranked World No.19, the fan favourite is one of the most entertaining players on tour and is poised to delight the local fans with some memorable moments.

Wu Yibing made history in September by going through qualifying to become the first male Chinese player to reach

the US Open third round as well as the first to make that stage of a Grand Slam in singles since 1946. The 23-year-old's breakthrough followed a period of dominance on the ATP Challenger Tour with titles in 2022 at Orlando, Indianapolis and Rome, USA. After a sterling junior career which saw him reach World No.1 and win the US Open boys' singles title, Wu has pundits predicting he will be the first Chinese man in the open era to breakthrough to the upper echelons of the men's game.

Coleman Wong made tennis history in January by following his victory at the US Open 2021 boys' doubles with a second junior major doubles title at the Australian Open, becoming Hong Kong's first ever two-time Grand Slam champion. The 18-year-old's doubles success translated to singles with a quarter-final showing at Wimbledon and a semi-final finish at the US Open boys' singles. Hong Kong's top ranked men's player, Coleman is now transitioning to the professional circuit, with two doubles titles and two singles semi-final showings on the ITF Men's World Tennis Tour in 2022 and is primed to continue this progress into the new year.

Commenting on his inclusion in the event, Coleman Wong said: "I am thrilled to be playing in the Bank of Communications Hong Kong International Tennis Challenge. To compete against some of the world's top players at home in front of the local fans and my friends & family is a dream come true. It will be a fantastic opportunity for me to test my game and gain valuable experience for the coming season. I greatly look forward to entertaining the fans at Victoria Park and showing them my best tennis in a few short weeks."

In addition to Official Title Sponsor Bank of Communications, a wide range of supporting partners and sponsors for the event were announced to include Gold Sponsor Cathay Pacific, Official Bakery Sponsor Kee Wah Bakery, Hong Kong Tennis Foundation, Official Network Sponsor Hong Kong Broadband, Germagic, Official Water Sponsor Watson's Water, The Physio Lab, Official Car Sponsor Volvo, Official Tennis Sponsor Dunlop and Official Sports Drinks Sponsor Pocari Sweat.

Details of ticket sales for 23-25 December were also announced with fans able to purchase tickets from 11 November at Cityline and Tom Lee Music outlets, through the Cityline Booking Hotline +852 2111 5333 and online at www.cityline.com. The ticket price ranges from HK\$300 to HK\$800. Concessionary tickets are available. Fans are encouraged to purchase their tickets as soon as possible to secure their seats.

For event photos, please click the link: https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1mlK-kLW3w1jyRR9ppUk3NCaOO7nJlyXG?usp=share_link

Photo Caption 1 to 5:

The star lineup of Bank of Communications Hong Kong International Tennis Challenge 2022 include World No.9 Taylor Fritz, World No. 11 Hubert Hurkacz, 2022 US Open semifinalist Frances Tiafoe, Hong Kong's two-time Junior Grand Slam doubles champion Coleman Wong and China's No.2 player Wu Yibing.

Photo Caption 6: Mr. FAN Chao Rong, Bank of Communications Hong Kong Deputy Chief Executive (4th from the left); Mr. Ken NG, General Manager, Event & Product Development of HKTB (1st from the left); Mr. Vincent CHENG, MH, JP, Chairman of Panel on Home Affairs, Culture and Sports (5th from the left); Mr. Philip MOK, President of Hong Kong Tennis Association (3rd from the left); Mr. Oscar CHOW, Chairman of Hong Kong Tennis Open Event Management (6th from the left); Mr. Michael CHENG, Honorary Secretary of Hong Kong Tennis Association (2nd from the left); and HK No.1 Coleman WONG (7th from the left) unveiled the star player line-up.

Photo Caption 7: Hong Kong's No.1 Player Coleman Wong will join the tournament's world-class field of players.

Photo Caption 8: Mr. Fan Chao Rong, Bank of Communications Hong Kong Deputy Chief Executive announced Bank of Communications support as event title sponsor.

Photo Caption 9: HKTA President Mr. Philip Mok revealed details of Hong Kong's first top-level professional men's tennis event in almost two decades.

Photo Caption 10: Chairman of Panel on Home Affairs, Culture and Sports Mr. Vincent CHENG, MH, JP, took part in the announcement of the Bank of Communications Hong Kong International Tennis Challenge 2022.

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About Bank of Communications Hong Kong International Tennis Challenge 2022

The Bank of Communications Hong Kong International Tennis Challenge 2022 is an exhibition tennis event to be staged at the iconic Victoria Park Tennis Stadium from 23-25 December 2022. Owned by the Hong Kong Tennis Association, the tournament is supported by the Hong Kong Government and title sponsor Bank of Communications (Hong Kong) Limited. The event will feature some of the world's top men's players and Chinese rising stars competing in a singles knock-out format over the three-day event period. The tournament is a community sports event with the goals of celebrating the 25th anniversary of the Hong Kong SAR, promoting sports, culture & healthy living and furthering tourism & Hong Kong's global image.

For more information, please visit official website: <https://www.tennishk.org/en/>

Facebook :<https://www.facebook.com/Hong-Kong-Tennis-Association-542605982491874>
Instagram :<https://instagram.com/hktatennis?igshid=YmMyMTA2M2Y=>
Twitter :https://twitter.com/hkta_programs

About Bank of Communications Hong Kong

Founded in 1908, Bank of Communications Co., Ltd. ("BoCom") is one of the banks with the longest history and one of the first note-issuing banks in China. On 1 April 1987, BoCom reopened after reorganization and the head office was located in Shanghai. BoCom was listed on the Hong Kong Stock Exchange in June 2005 and the Shanghai Stock Exchange in May 2007. In 2022, BoCom was named a "Fortune Global 500" company for its 12th consecutive year, ranking at 155 in terms of operating income, and its fourth year of ranking 10th in the "Top 1000 World Banks" in terms of Tier 1 Capital rated by "The Banker".

Established in January 2018, Bank of Communications (Hong Kong) Limited ("BoCom (HK)") is a wholly owned subsidiary of Bank of Communications Co., Ltd. ("BoCom") (Stock codes: A shares 601328, H shares 03328). BoCom (HK) has touchpoints all over Hong Kong, offering both corporate and personal banking customers a comprehensive corporate financial and wealth management services through its 44 outlets, among which are 37 BComBEST Services Centres, a Private Banking Centre and 7 Business Services Centres in Hong Kong.

BoCom and its subsidiaries (the "Group") have profound experience in offering financial services and a strong network in both the Mainland and Hong Kong. Along with BoCom (HK) and the Group's subsidiaries such as Bank of Communications Hong Kong Branch, BoCom International Holdings Company Limited, China BoCom Insurance Co., Ltd. and Bank of Communications Trustee Limited, the Group continues to extend professional and comprehensive financial products and services and wealth management services covering retail and private banking, corporate banking, capital markets, trustee, and more through an integrated operation.

About Hong Kong Tennis Association (HKTA)

The HKTA is a non-profit organisation formed in 1909 with over 4,000 individual members and recognised by both the Asian Tennis Federation (ATF) and the International Tennis Federation (ITF). HKTA's objectives are to promote tennis to all, to nurture talented players to compete at a regional and international level, and to raise the standard of the game in Hong Kong. To meet its objectives, HKTA organises a number of local and international tennis tournaments as well as grassroots, junior and elite development programs, inter-club leagues, coaching certification courses and a Tennis-For-All open enrollment programme.