



CHINESE AMBASSADOR REN HONGYAN'S REMARKS TO THE 2025 CHINESE ARRIVAL DRAGON BOAT FESTIVAL

In the coming weekend, the Boardwalk in front of the Dragon Boat Centre will be set in an auspicious festivity and the scenic Chaguaramas Bay will brim with much-anticipated vibrancy of cultural expression, sports engagement and community connection - the 2025 Chinese Arrival Dragon Boat Festival.

The spirit of resilience, courage, benevolence and unity embodied in the history and inheritance of the dragon boat racing, which is the legacy of Chinese ancient patriotic poet Qu Yuan, whose story of sacrifice and devotion could be traced back for 2000 years, continues to inspire and elevate people at present. Since 2019, the Dragon Boat Festival has been celebrated in an increased number of countries in the world as the newly inscribed UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage.

The Dragon Boat Festival tradition in Trinidad and Tobago was first established in commemoration of the bicentennial of the arrival of the first Chinese in Trinidad and Tobago via the vessel Fortitude in 1806, and has become one of the most anticipated public sport and cultural festivals, staged by the Chinese community in Trinidad and Tobago. It is a special occasion to recognize and celebrate the valuable contributions of the Chinese

community to the development of

Trinidad and Tobago, a community that, together with other ethnic groups, has long been a cornerstone of the richly diversified, melting-pot society. Over the years, distinguished individuals of Chinese heritage have left an indelible mark on the nation's history and progress - from Sir Solomon Hochoy, the first Governor, to Carlisle Chang, designer of the national flag, and Eugene Chen, who once served as Foreign Minister of China.

It is heartening to witness that the dragon boat festival appeals to more and more Trinbagonian friends, who warm-heartedly participate in the events and enjoy cultural synergy showcasing both countries' cultural heritage, culinary arts and exquisite crafts throughout the festival. Mutual trust, cultural and people-to-people ties between our two countries play a pivotal role in the advancement of bilateral relations spanning more than five decades.

Looking forward, I am deeply convinced that our two nations and people will share a brighter and more prosperous future with joint efforts. Let us cheer for our friendship and cooperation in every single stroke of oars and wish for a most successful and rewarding festival for all.