



PRESS RELEASE
7 May 2009

Breast Cancer Survivors to Take on Real Race!

Not long after the success of Penang Channel Challenge where a group of breast cancer survivors challenged themselves by crossing the 3.8km channel from Butterworth to the island of Penang, the same group of women is determined to compete in the 1st Putrajaya International Dragon Boat Festival from 5 to 7 June 2009.

These ladies also known as Pink Challengers will be taking part in a few races apart from the breast cancer survivors race, one of these races is the 2000m women's marathon. They aim to ***Paddle for Courage, Strength and Change*** - to create a change in the mindset of the public that breast cancer is not a death sentence, but one can still live an active life after breast cancer. Hence, participation in this race aspires to convey the message that after early detection and timely medical treatment, breast cancer survivors can live extremely normal and active lives.

"It is not so much on winning itself. It's more about getting the Pink Challengers and other survivors to reach out for the same cause and to know that we're all striving for the same mission which is to re-educate the public that there is life after cancer" said Wong Mee Yee, Team Captain of Pink Challengers who also played a part in roping in other dragon boat teams of breast cancer survivors. "This is the first time we are participating in the 2000m women's marathon but we're confident that with all the tough training we have had, we will make it!" added Mee Yee.

To mark the end of the breast cancer race, the Pink Challengers and other dragon boat teams of breast cancer survivors will conduct the "*flowers-on-the-water*" ceremony. During the ceremony a moment of silence will be observed in remembrance of women all over the world who fought a brave battle till the end and those who are currently still fighting the battle today before flowers are thrown into the water to commemorate the moment.

Pink Challengers is a dragon boat team from Breast Cancer Welfare Association (BCWA) which consists of paddlers who are breast cancer survivors. The team was formed in March 2005 and since then has taken part in the annual Penang International Dragon Boat Festival, Sabah Dragon Boat Race in Kota Kinabalu and Sava Sprints in Singapore and a few local races in Putrajaya, Kuala Lumpur. Pink Challengers have also been much involved in breast cancer awareness by organizing various unique and first-of-its-kind activities such as "Bum on Bikes" where they rode pillion on Harley Davidson bikes from Kuala Lumpur to Malacca and the Penang Channel Challenge where they braved the open and choppy sea.

Members of the public who are interested to obtain more information on the event can contact BCWA at 03-79549013 or email meeyee@bcwa.org.my .

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