



**PRESS RELEASE  
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**Pink Challengers to Compete in Putrajaya International Dragon Boat Festival**

No, you are not seeing double, **Breast Cancer Welfare Association (BCWA)** is sending two teams of breast cancer survivors to participate in the 1<sup>st</sup> Putrajaya International Dragon Boat Festival from 5 to 7 June 2009. The teams; Pink Challengers 1 and Pink Challengers 2, will be competing together in the International Breast Cancer Survivors' Race. All paddlers are breast cancer survivors and 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.

Due to the popularity of dragon boating among breast cancer survivors particularly in alleviating lymphoedema or swelling of the arm, which can occur in some women as a side effect of breast cancer treatment, this strenuous water sport is piquing the interests of many. "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. "By distinguishing the team as Pink Challengers 1 and Pink Challengers 2, we are still Pink Challengers collectively. In fact, Pink Challengers 1 and 2 will merge when we are competing in the big boat race" added Mee Yee when asked about naming her two teams as such.

"This is the first time we are participating in the 2000m marathon but we're confident that with all the tough training we have had, we will make it!" said Babs Delaney, Team Manager of Pink Challengers. "In fact, the marathon is the highlight of our race as it is a male-dominated race. However, we will have two paddlers who are non-survivors," added Babs.

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.

Other than the 2000m Putrajaya International Challenge marathon, they will be taking part in International Breast Cancer Survivors' Race 12 Crew, Malaysia Ladies Crew 22 Crew, Malaysia Ladies 12 Crew, and International Women Crews 22 Crew.

Dragon boating is an activity by the **Breast Cancer Welfare Association (BCWA)** for its members who comprise of breast cancer patients and survivors.

**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](mailto:meeyee@bcwa.org.my) .**

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