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2023 XTEP Jinjiang Marathon held

15,000 Runners from 15 countries join the gala on the “most beautiful course”

On December 3, 2023, the XTEP Jinjiang Marathon kicked off with the marathon mania sweeping the city. 15,000 runners from 15 countries including China, Kenya, Ethiopia, France, Malaysia, Singapore, North Korea, South Korea, Australia, the United Kingdom, Japan, the Philippines, the United States, Thailand, Mongolia, etc. ran side by side on the “most beautiful marathon course”, enjoying the picturesque landscape of Jinjiang while experiencing the profound history and culture of southern Fujian.

After a competition of endurance, Dejene Cherinet Hailye from Ethiopia collected full marathon men's championship with a gun time of 2:15:36, setting a new event record. Xu Bingjie from China secured full marathon women's championship with a gun time of 2:38:16. Li Zhengyue and Huang Xuemei from China won half-marathon men's championship and half-marathon women's championship respectively.

As marathoners ran on the course along the Maritime Silk Road, they were also exploring the world cultural heritage along the major course that wound through city landmarks of Jinjiang Sports Center, Wanda Plaza, Jinjiang Cultural Center, Jinjiang Experience Hall, Jinjiang Football Training Center, Cao'an Temple, Anping Bridge and etc.. Before the start of the race, Xu Jinhang, the 2023 XTEP Jinjiang Marathon ambassador sang this year's theme song *It's Really Nice Here* on site while an array of performances such as lion dance, cheer dance and Gaojia opera were also presented to ignite the enthusiasm of runners.

Jinjiang marathon set the city astrir. On the course were runners from all over the world, including the Jinjiang Marathoners Alliance whose appearance made the race all the more exhilarating. In the alliance, the Running Teams of Overseas Chinese Businessmen consisting of 12 teams and nearly 200 Jinjiang compatriots home and abroad became the most eye-catching scene on the marathon course this year.

This year's Jinjiang Marathon was a spectacular gala seething with warmth. At the venue, the little volunteer girls dressed in Nyonya costume were particularly eye-catching. Their cheers and encouragement kindled the enthusiasm and enriched the experience of marathoners. Traditional local music of Suoluolian and modern bands performance were all presented on the same stage to cheer for the runners. The warmth of the gala can also be found in a 77 year old runner who with persistent running displayed his deep affection for marathon and for Jinjiang, his hometown, as well as in a runner from Anhui Province who celebrated a special birthday amid the cheers of the crowd.

According to statistics, the applicants for Jinjiang Marathon this year amounted to 15,000. Among them were 4,000 runners participating in full marathon, 5,000 in half marathon, and 6,000 in health run. In addition, the organizing committee of the 2023 Jinjiang Marathon invited some high-level marathoners home and abroad, most of whom were born in the 1990s with a maximum age of 38 and a minimum age of 19.

From 2016 to 2019, Jinjiang Marathon made great leaps year by year, scoring substantial achievements in both scale and effects. With sound operations, excellent organization, increasing popularity and growing impacts, it has been hailed as one of the prestigious marathons in China, receiving multiple honors such as the “CAA Road Race Gold Label” “CAA Natural and Ecological Competition” and “CAA Ethnic and Folk Competition”.



“Running Teams of Overseas Chinese Businessmen” shines in Jinjiang Marathon

How young Jinjiang
好样晋江



This year, Jinjiang Marathon invited overseas Chinese, compatriots from Hong Kong, Macao, and Taiwan, as well as members of non-local chambers of commerce, to form 12 “Running Teams of Overseas Chinese Businessmen” comprised of nearly 200 members. Among them, associations in Macao SAR, China, as well as in the United States, Singapore and Thailand formed 4 overseas running teams, while chambers of commerce in Guangdong, Shanghai, Zhejiang, Jiangsu and other places formed 8 domestic running teams.

Compatriots travelled thousands of miles to China for the sake of love and enthusiasm. Zhu Zhongyuan from the Macao Orange Wave-riding Running Team, broke his personal best half marathon record by participating in the marathon in Chinese mainland for the first time. “Previously, my best half marathon record was 1:37 in the Macao Marathon. Today, I achieve the score of 1:33 in the Jinjiang Marathon, which is amazing!” Zhu Zhongyuan also said that the Jinjiang Marathon course was very comfortable for athletes, and there were also many unique performances to enjoy along the way, providing a great experience.

The organizing committee of this year's Jinjiang Marathon creatively set up a check-in wall for Running Teams of Overseas Chinese Businessmen with the theme of “Love for Jinjiang and Love for Jinjiang Marathon” at the start and finish points of marathon as well as the finish point of health run. Running teams from all over the world brought their unique banners and took photos in front of the wall to capture the exciting moments.

“No matter where we are, we always care about our hometown in our hearts. It is very intimate and warm to participate in Jinjiang Marathon with compatriots in the US. We hope that our hometown can hold more large-scale sports events and make its name of ‘sports city’ spread far and wide.” Lin Qiuyu, the head of the Running Team of the Jinjiang Federation in the United States, said excitedly.

“Thanks for the kind invitation from my hometown. Next year, the Singapore Chin Kang Huay Kuan will definitely organize more people to participate in the Jinjiang Marathon!” Xu Meijing, the head of the Running Team of Singapore Chin Kang Huay Kuan, took a photo of the commemorative plaque of “Running Teams of Overseas Chinese Businessmen” and could not wait to send it to the WeChat group to share with other compatriots. She said that they all thumbed up for Jinjiang Marathon and wished that Jinjiang Marathon would get better and better.



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Nyonya volunteers: a unique sight on “most beautiful marathon course”



In the 2023 XTEP Jinjiang Marathon, the volunteer girls dressed in Nyonya costume adorned the whole course, making the “most beautiful marathon course” all the more attractive.

The colorful costumes, the blooming flowers and over 10,000 runners together form a beautiful picture. The girls constantly cheered for the runners passing by, kindling everyone's passion for running and improving the runners' marathon experience.

High fives, thumbs-up, group photos... Runners were asking for taking photos with the Nyonya volunteers at each kilometer point, further heating up this city carnival.

“We've been running all the way, and cheered on by the Nyonya volunteers, which is really exciting!” said Wang Junhui, a runner from Shenzhen. He had been running marathon for over 2 years, and this was the first time he had seen volunteers dressed in Nyonya costumes. “With their help at each kilometer, the game has become very different, and the running experience has skyrocketed.”

“Up to now, Jinjiang Marathon has been held for five sessions. We hope to comprehensively improve the service of this event, so that runners can have a new experience. It is a brand new attempt to have Nyonya volunteers in the event.” An official from the Jinjiang Marathon Organizing Committee stated that the theme of this year's marathon was “Running on Maritime Silk Road, Exploring World Cultural Heritage”, and the Nyonya elements on the course was a vivid presentation of the Maritime Silk Road culture.

