

## **2019 IRC Congress Report from Hong Kong**

As in past years the total number of IRC Certificates issued remains fairly constant. There is an active group of fast 40's racing in Hong Kong who tend to make an appearance at most regattas. There is a diverse range of boats that fit in the 30's and in terms of numbers probably provided the largest group that race both regatta's and regular weekend club racing.

The HK IRC Owners' Association has laid plans to run an inaugural HK Nationals to be run over two consecutive weekends in March 2020 (7/8<sup>th</sup> & 14/15<sup>th</sup>). The intention is to share the race organisation and venues between the 3 major clubs in HK and to include buoy racing, a night race within in local waters and an Island type course to provide some varied racing. It is hoped if successful that it could become a biannual event.

The planned Sportsboats Asia Pacific Championships for November 2019 as reported last year has been shelved, reportedly due to lack of interest! That has reduced the likelihood of ORC being used on a regular basis within HK.

Discussions have been ongoing with the HK sportsboat fleet to adopt IRC for their fleet racing to replace SMS. To date the response has been lukewarm, the largest fleet within the Sportsboats are Magic 25's and they are reluctant to change rating systems whilst the remainder which cover a number of different classes seem to view it more positively. At this stage any change is uncertain but I would hope they can adopt IRC by the IRC 2020 South year.

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