

For Immediate Release

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Singapore employer supports work-life balance

Hudson sponsors Matthew Chapman to run ultramarathon of 250km in the Gobi Desert, China

HONG KONG, MARCH 31, 2005 – Hudson, one of the world’s leading professional recruitment, outsourcing and human capital solution providers and a division of Hudson Highland Group, Inc (NASDAQ, HHGP), will sponsor Matthew Chapman, a Singapore-based employee, to compete in the Gobi March Ultra-marathon in China from 24th to 30th April 2005.

Chapman, a 28-year old Australian based in Hudson Singapore for the past three years, will be one of 100 competitors from across the globe aiming to complete the 250km event spread over six days. Covering daily distances ranging from 25km to 80km, Matthew will endure some of the harshest conditions on earth in his goal to complete the event. The Gobi Desert is known for being one of the driest landscapes on Earth and is nicknamed “The Oven.”

What sets this already extreme event apart from other races is that competitors will be almost totally self-sufficient throughout the event. All competitors must carry all their equipment for the gruelling six-day race with a nine-litre daily ration of water, a tent to sleep in each night and a campfire for warmth.

Chapman will raise money for the Straits Times School Pocket Money Fund.

Stefanie Cross-Wilson, country manager of Hudson Singapore, said, “Work-life balance is something that Hudson fundamentally subscribes to and supports. As part of our workplace health efforts, many of our employees annually participate in charity marathons. In fact, for the second year, about half of our office will be running in the annual JPM Chase Corporate Challenge in April. Moreover, about 10% - 15% of our staff will even take up the challenge in the Singapore Marathon.

“At Hudson, it is not only about fulfilling employee satisfaction but more importantly, we believe a healthy work-life balance leads to increased productivity and morale, lower job stress and lower turnover. Each Hudson employee gets four personal days in each calendar year on top of their annual leave; to take a day off from work” she explained.

“For top talent, whatever their field of expertise, there is a strong correlation between staying healthy and being able to climb the corporate ladder. For leading companies to retain talent, they must strike a balance between the work and personal objectives of their employees in order to get the most out of them. The best corporations to work for are those that encourage a sustainable work-life balance,” noted Cross-Wilson.

Most of the 100 competitors in the Gobi March are successful executives and include Managing Directors of Fortune 500 companies, lawyers, investment bankers, actors and elite athletes.

The Gobi March is the second in a four-part 1,000km endurance series organised by international adventure outfit "Racing the Planet." The first race was held in the Atacama Desert in July 2004 and attracted 80 competitors. Chapman came in 5th place. After the Gobi March, the Sahara Race of six stages and 250km is planned for September 2005. The grand finale, the Last Desert, will be another 250km footrace across Antarctica, which is tentatively scheduled for 2006.

Event: Gobi March Ultramarathon, Urumqi, China, April 2005

Start/Finish: 24 – 30 April

Race makeup: 6 Stages - 30km, 40km, 30km, 80km, 42km, 16km (Total 250km)

Altitude: 2400m - 4200m

Participants: 100 competitors from 24 countries

Age range of competitors: 23 - 70

Daily temperature range: -10°C (overnight) to 35°C during day

Expected calories burned per day: 3,500 to 6,000

Event entry cost: US\$2,600 (event alone)

Expected pack weight: 12kg - 18kg

Urumqi, China, which is located in the Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region Province, in far North West China. With a population of 1.67 million, it is the most distant large city from a seaport in the world. Xinjiang is home to 47 ethnic groups including the Uygur, the major ethnic group in Xinjiang. Xinjiang borders eight countries including Mongolia, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, India, Afghanistan, Tajikistan and Pakistan. The Turpan Depression is located in Xinjiang, making the ancient city of Turpan the second lowest point on Earth, after the Dead Sea in Jordan. Nicknamed "the Oven", Turpan is also the hottest place in China.

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