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**COLORADO DRAGON BOAT FESTIVAL DRAWS 100,000 ATTENDEES FOR THE  
THIRD STRAIGHT YEAR TO EXPLORE ASIA AND THE PACIFIC**

*Attendees Enjoyed Dragon Boat Races, Performing Arts, Cultural Customs, Cuisine and Family Events*

DENVER (July 28, 2009) –For the third straight year, 100,000 people came to soak in the culture and flavor of Asia and the Pacific at the 9<sup>th</sup> annual Colorado Dragon Boat Festival (CDBF) held last weekend, July 25 and 26, at Sloan’s Lake Park. A window to the Pan Asian world, this free family-friendly festival showcased traditional and contemporary performing artists, cultural customs and cuisine, in addition to two days of competitive dragon boat racing.

Throughout all Festival areas, the 2009 CDBF also saluted the colorful history and timeless appeal of Hawaii as it celebrates its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary as the 50<sup>th</sup> state this year. The festival was filled with special performances, Polynesian music and hula dancing, as well as cultural exhibits and ceremonies. An outrigger boat was also on site to show how Hawaiians have historically taken to the waves to race.

“It was another fantastic event this year that allowed attendees to enjoy a trip to Asia and the Pacific in one weekend without leaving Colorado,” commented Colorado Dragon Boat Festival Executive Director Alisa Zimmerman. “Despite the rain both days, we again welcomed 100,000 festival goers who were able to learn more about Hawaii in its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of statehood at our Hawaii 5-0 Explore Asia! area and watch cultural ceremonies and rituals in Gateway to Asia. Children enjoyed fun activities and engaging performances in Dragonland, and crowds were singing and dancing at our Performing Arts stage and experiencing the music and dance within hip-hop culture at the increasingly popular Cultural Unity tent. Visitors were also able to take a piece of Asia home with them as they browsed the Marketplace and enjoyed the array of Asian flavors featured in the Taste of Asia food court. With all of this, plus a weekend full of races on two courses, it was an amazing experience for all. Make plans now to return to the Festival next year, July 24 and 25, as we celebrate the event’s 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary!”

This year, teams from across the region and the country (teams traveled from Florida, Texas and Arizona) competed in division races on both a 500-meter course (Competitive) and a 250-meter course (all other divisions) using BuK-style Hong Kong boats. Nearly 1,000 racers making up 45 teams paddled to take home the gold.

***Dragon Boat Race Winners:***

**Adult Competitive:**

- **Gold: Chop Suey** - A team from Florida racing for the first time this year in the CDBF
- **Silver:** The Flying Dragons - Last year's winner of the Competitive Division and the winners of the Novice Division in 2007
- **Bronze:** Spirit of Cambodia

**Adult Corporate:**

- **Gold: Rocket Dragons**
- Silver: WagenKamp's Frozen Fish Sticks - The winner of the Novice Division last year

\*A bronze trophy was not awarded for this division

**Adult Novice:**

- **Gold:** Oars are Better than Yours
- Silver: PowR3d by Chopstix

\*A bronze trophy was not awarded for this division

**Youth:**

- **Gold: Chinggis' Warriors**
- Silver: PASCO Pinoy Dragons
- Bronze: Lao Community of Colorado - Defeated this year after winning the Youth Division for six straight years!

For those interested in paddling in the Colorado Dragon Boat Festival races next year or for more information on participating in the sport year-round, e-mail [race@cdbf.org](mailto:race@cdbf.org).

Beyond the exciting races, festival goers enjoyed mouthwatering food from all of Asia, including cuisine from Mongolia, China, Vietnam, Thailand, the Philippines and Laos. **The fourth annual culinary competition** was held on Sunday morning, judging cuisine featured at the Festival's 20 food vendors in the Taste of Asia Food Court. The judges were Big Mike's BBQ Chef/Caterer Mike McCrea, who joined the Festival for the first time as a culinary judge; and Shamrock Foods/Culinary Committee Chair for the Cherry Creek Arts Festival, Jan Humphries, who judged the competition for the third year. Culinary judging was based on six distinctive categories: relevance to Asian culture, creativity, presentation, overall taste, value and challenge of preparation. The winners of this year's Meal competition were:

- **Best of Show: Taste of Thailand – Mango Shrimp Salad (Taking home the title for the second year in a row)**
- First Place Meal: Savory Saigon – Saigon Shrimp Slaw (Moving up from Second Place in 2008!)
- Second Place Meal: Chez Thuy – Chicken Kabobs
- Third Place Meal: Imperial Restaurant – Sesame Chicken

For the first time this year, three winners were also selected in the Dessert category.

The winners of the **Dessert category** were:

- **First Place Dessert: Tropical Paradise – Sticky Rice Bamboo Stick**
- Second Place Dessert: Taste of Thailand – Fried Banana
- Third Place Dessert: Berrie Kabobs

The 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Colorado Dragon Boat Festival is presented by community partner SCFD Tier III in association with MillerCoors, Comcast, 105.5 & 102.3 Jack FM, Fox 31 and *The Denver Post*. Allied Insurance a Nationwide® Company *On Your Side*®, Bacardi Dragon Berry, Kaiser Permanente, Pepsi Bottling Group, Your Neighborhood Toyota Stores, Westwood College and *Denver Magazine* are Supporting Sponsors of the event. Corporate Contributors include CH2M HILL, Denver Water, Southwest Airlines and Wells Fargo.

*Founded in 2001 to celebrate Colorado's diverse Asian Pacific American (APA) communities, the Colorado Dragon Boat Festival (CDBF), a 501© 3 non-profit organization, has become the region's fastest growing, family-friendly summer festival. CDBF offers festival-goers the opportunity to explore APA culture through performances, educational programs, arts and crafts, shopping, dining and the exciting athletic competition of dragon boat racing. [www.cdbf.org](http://www.cdbf.org)*

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