



香港在六十年代的漁業興旺時期，漁船建造業發達，傳統造船師傅都會建造龍舟，照片中的長洲船廠正在建造龍舟。

In the heyday of Hong Kong's fisheries in the 1960s, the shipbuilding industry boomed as a result of demands from the fishing fleet. Most traditional shipwrights also built dragon boats, such as this one on Cheung Chau Island.



農曆五月初五日的端午節是公眾假期，很多社區都舉行龍舟競渡，地方團體組織龍舟隊，大家一較高下。香港每年都會舉辦國際龍舟賽，邀請世界各地隊伍參加，為一個旅遊及體育盛事。

The 5th day of the 5th lunar month is the Dragon Boat Festival, a public holiday in Hong Kong. Not only do teams of local communities join the dragon boat races, but contestants from around the world also join the extravaganza of international dragon boat races, turning it into both a tourism attraction and a major sporting event.



每年的端午節，新界大澳的三艘傳統龍舟到社區廟宇迎接代表音薩的小神像（俗稱「行身」）巡遊水道。神像放在「神艇」上，由龍舟拖行，神艇上的人員不停燃燒金銀衣紙和向水面撒「水飯」（由水混和了的米飯和菜），以安撫水中幽魂，讓社區太平。

During the annual Dragon Boat Festival, three traditional dragon boats from Tai O receive travelling deity images from the local temples and parade along the water channels. The deity images are brought onto the deity boats, which are towed by the dragon boats. In the stern of the deity boats, ritual paper products are burned while some vegetables and cooked rice are scattered on the sea as offerings to the water ghosts.



地方人士相信龍舟是神聖的，建成下水時，要由道士（俗稱「喃嘸先生」）主持點睛開光儀式。也有地方邀請社區代表主持點睛儀式。

Locals believe that the dragon boat is sacred. Before a new dragon boat is launched, a Daoist priest will conduct an "opening the light" ceremony, by painting each eye of the dragon head with a dot of vermilion paint. In some places, secular community leaders are invited to perform the ritual instead.



在龍舟競渡中，除了競爭名次外，也有其娛樂的一面。一位健兒戴上「大頭佛」面具和穿上長衫，鼓勵健兒划龍舟。

The dragon boat races are both exciting and entertaining. To cheer the dragon boat rowers and the audiences, a rower makes his mark by putting on a "Big Head Buddha" mask and a traditional long gown.



為了取勝，大澳的龍舟健兒發展出一套半站立式的划龍舟方法。

To win the race, competitors from Tai O come up with a half-seated rowing method.



龍舟宗教儀式完結後，三艘傳統龍舟便參與龍舟競渡，勝出的一隊更可以代表大澳參加香港的國際龍舟邀請賽。觀眾及參與的健兒都很緊張賽果。

After the dragon boat parade, the three traditional dragon boats join the race with the other teams, and the winner represents Tai O in the Hong Kong International Dragon Boat Races. Both spectators and racers are equally anxious about the results.