



Doug Woodring, Honor Administrator, Hong Kong, 2020



Videos: [Interview 1 Ted IMSHOF 2020 at 1:30:00](#)

Doug Woodring created a local open water community in Hong Kong and two marathon swims.

Cold Half and Clean Half 15 km: solos and relays. In 2006 Doug started the 15 km Clean Half Extreme Marathon Swim in Hong Kong, which is one of the few 10 km+ races in Asia, and the only group relay race in Asia. Approximately 120 solo swimmers to 2020 (and beyond) have competed in the Clean Half Extreme Marathon Swim – most in just skins. In 2011 Doug co-founded the 15 km Cold Half Extreme Marathon Swim, and one of the only cold-water races in Asia that can be used for training and preparation of longer marathon swims like the English Channel. Approximately 40 solo swimmers to 2020 (and beyond) have competed in the Cold Half Extreme Marathon Swim – 80% in wetsuits. Swims by IMSHOF Honorees Attila Mányoki and Ned Denison in skins are helping to encourage local swimmers to shed their wetsuits.

Lesser distance swims serve as feeders for the marathons. This includes the 2.2 km Sheko Challenge beach-to-beach – with 3,400 swimmers to 2020 (and beyond). “The Five” (5 km) point-to-point race around a peninsula and the 5 km Repulse Bay Triple. IMSHOF Honorees Marcos Díaz, and Trent Grimsey swam in these events further helping with publicity.

These swims directly connect to his global efforts to clean up the open water – which is critical not only for our sport, but for our lives. Woodring was the Founder and Managing Director of Ocean Recovery Alliance and Open Water Asia. Ocean Recovery Alliance is a non-profit organization focused on bringing innovative solutions, technology, collaborations and policy together to impact positive improvements for the health of the ocean. Projects included: Global Alert platform and the Plastic Disclosure Project, both arguably 8-10 years ahead of their time. In 2008 he co-founded Project

Kaisei, which focused on the plastic in the North Pacific Gyre, and he was named an UNEP Climate Hero and Google Earth Hero for his efforts. He was the founder of the Plasticity Forum, a one-day business conference on the future of plastic and where industry leaders are going with innovation, design, materials, recycling and solutions, which has been held in 13 global cities since its launch in 2012.

Among newer projects, Woodring created the Water Falling and Water Rising Festivals in Cambodia, initiating these programs with a local partner which are run semi-annually. These events have significant local and national government support, as they were the first to engage local students, monks, fisherman and village communities along the Tonle Sap Lake, with now over 30 villages involved, and over 15,000 people engaged.

Woodring is also a co-founder of the new Commitments Accelerator for Plastic Pollution (CAPP) program which is an incubator for global plastic pollution commitment programs. CAPP already has national partners of Fiji, Curacao and Seychelles, and recently completed a large MBA case study competition in India.

Woodring was an open water swimmer, water polo player and international outrigger canoe competitor.

[Expanded Biography \(Openwaterpedia\)](#)