



**Doug Woodring, Honor Administrator, Hong Kong,  
2020**



Personal Website (None known)

**Doug Woodring** has created a local open water community in Hong Kong and two marathon swims with growing attendance. These are directly connected to his global efforts to clean up the open water – which is critical not only for our sport, but for our lives.

Cold Half and Clean Half 15k: 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 date 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 date 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 Distances serve as feeders for the marathons. This includes the 2.2 km Sheko Challenge beach-to-beach – with 3,400 swimmers to date. “The Five” (5 km) point-to-point race around a peninsula and the 5km Repulse Bay Triple. IMSHOF Honorees Marcos Díaz, and Trent Grimsey swam in these events further helping with publicity.

Ocean Recovery Alliance (Co-Founder) Doug is the Co-Founder and Director of its programs, idea generation and innovation. This Non-Government Organization (non-profit) is one of the only organizations in the world that has worked with both the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the World Bank on plastic pollution issues in our waters. Doug is one of the ten most

influential individuals in this area and the only one outside the Western countries. Key programs include:

Global Alert App/Platform – allowing anyone in the world to report trash hotspots in the world's waterways or coastlines, including underwater for reefs/divers. Selected by CEO Magazine as one of the top eight apps changing the world for the better.

Oceanic Big Five – global cleanup program for the top five sports users of the ocean: swimmers, surfers, paddlers, divers and sailors.

Plasticity Forum – This is a business event focused on the future of plastic and where the leaders are going with design, innovation, materials, recycling and scaled solutions for a world without the waste footprint. Doug founded and launched this event at the Rio+20 Earth Summit (2012), and has since held it in Hong Kong 2013, New York 2014, Portugal 2015, Shanghai 2017, London 2017, Dallas 2017 and Los Angeles 2107, with Sydney planned in October 2017.

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

Long Swims Database (Marathon Swimmers Federation) – No entry expected