

Internet Professional Association  
27/F, 9 Wing Hong Street,  
Cheung Sha Wan, Kowloon, Hong Kong  
Tel: (852) 2778 0040  
Fax: (852) 2778 0032  
Web: [www.iproa.org](http://www.iproa.org)  
Email: [iproa@iproa.org](mailto:iproa@iproa.org)



March 3, 2009

Dear Hon Joseph Lee,

### **Developing an Electronic Health Record Sharing Infrastructure in Hong Kong**

I am writing on behalf of the Internet Professional Association (iProA), with a membership of more than 2,300 ICT industry players, to urge the Panel on Health Services to support the Government's initiative to develop a territory-wide electronic health record (eHR) sharing system.


We welcome the proposal to involve the IT industry in developing the system, in accordance with the eHR standards and as guided by the certification scheme for compliance and inter-operability. Since 2003, iProA has been actively involved in the development of eHealth in Hong Kong based on our firm belief that public-private-partnership and co-operation between healthcare and IT professionals will help advance the quality of healthcare in Hong Kong. We believe the eHR, which is one critical component in the larger effort to create a comprehensive infrastructure to drive eHealth development, will not only improve the quality and delivery of care with enhanced efficiency, it will also be a major boost to the local IT industry with increased demand for skills and expertise for the local IT and health informatics industry.

The eHR system will play a crucial role in further developing Hong Kong as a leading digital city by building and attracting international skills and organizations to Hong Kong to develop clinical systems in partnership with local industry, and meet the increasing demand from health sector for IT systems. The cross-breeding of expertise from world wide expertise, coupled with the state-of-the-art infrastructure of our eHR infrastructure will present a prime opportunity for Hong Kong to become a service a training centre for e-Health in the Asia-Pacific region.

We believe that the diverse expertise of iProA members could also be deployed to support

private healthcare providers in upgrading their information systems and contribute to eHR development in constructive partnerships through innovative initiatives involving multiple stakeholders in public and private sectors. We look forward to seeing the approval of this pivotal infrastructure by the Panel on Health Services and the Finance Committee of the Legislative Council.

Yours Sincerely,

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Dr. Winnie Tang

President,  
Internet Professional Association