

Hon Andrew LEUNG Kwan-yuen, SBS, JP
Chairman of Panel on Information Technology and Broadcasting
Legislative Council
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3 Garden Road
Central, Hong Kong

LC Paper No. CB(1)1191/08-09(09)
(English version only)

26 March 2009

Dear Honorable Mr. LEUNG,

On behalf of the Internet Professional Association (iProA), I write to express our view on the review of the administration of Internet domain names in Hong Kong. We have solicited views from our members, which consist of more than 2,300 ICT industry players, and we have unanimously concluded that our Government should strengthen the governance of HKIRC and the Board of HKIRC should promote its level of transparency and openness via the engagement of diverse stakeholders. On this basis, our recommendations are stipulated in the two key areas below:

1. Separate Consultative and Advisory Panel (CAP) engaging a broad set of stakeholders

The CAP should be independent from the board of governance of HKIRC and engage key stakeholders from the internet community and relevant government departments. It should be given the power to advise the HKIRC on key issues involving its governance and operation. In such way, CAP serves a dual role of advising the Board on major issues and facilitating the interaction of the Board with the stakeholders. We urge our Government to expedite the setup of CAP which will not only improve the transparency of HKIRC's administration, but also facilitate the timely implementation of the recommended changes collected in prior consultations.

1. Registry-registrar model, whereby appropriate bodies may provide “.hk” users with registrar services on an equal and competitive basis

In light of the rapid growth of eCommerce activities and the drastic increase in the demand for domain names, the management and administration of Internet domain names has become more important than ever. To allow healthy development of the local Internet industry, domain registration of .hk should be open to the participation of Hong Kong industry players who are capable of providing such service. We believe that the Registry-registrar model will facilitate an open market competition that enables users with more choices and better Internet services. For that to take effect, we hope the Government will facilitate a timely establishment of the Registry-registrar model and HKIRC will publish a comprehensive government structure and documentary framework whereby industry players may participate as registrars on a fair basis.

We very much hope that the new institutional framework and arrangements for the administration of “.hk” will reflect improved openness and transparency in the way HKIRC is run. iProA, as the leading ICT professional association in Hong Kong which has been endeavored to promoting the proper application of Internet technology, would be pleased to collaborate closely with the Government to improve the administration of Internet domain names in our city.

Thank you for your consideration.

Yours faithfully,



Dr. Winnie Tang (鄧淑明博士)
President
Internet Professional Association