

**Legislative Council Panel on
Information Technology and Broadcasting**

**Progress Report on the Implementation of Computer Information
System Integration Qualification Certification
under the Second Phase of Mainland and Hong Kong Closer Economic
Partnership Arrangement**

INTRODUCTION

This paper outlines the progress made in implementing the Computer Information System Integration (SI) Qualification Certification under the second phase of the Mainland and Hong Kong Closer Economic Partnership Arrangement (CEPA II) since 1 January 2005.

BACKGROUND

2. As one of the liberalization measures under CEPA II announced on 27 August 2004, Hong Kong service suppliers are allowed to apply for SI Qualification Certification, in accordance with the relevant regulations and rules promulgated by the Mainland, with effect from 1 January 2005.

3. To facilitate Hong Kong enterprises to apply for SI Qualification Certification, the Ministry of Information Industry (MII) of the Central People's Government agreed to institute a transition period of one year with effect from 1 January 2005, during which certain aspects of the application procedures and assessment criteria of the SI Qualification Certification are specially arranged for Hong Kong service suppliers.

4. At the meeting on 8 April 2005, Members were briefed on the relevant arrangements applicable to Hong Kong service providers.

SUMMARY OF PROGRESS

5. The SI Qualification Assessment Centre at Hong Kong Productivity Council (Hong Kong Assessment Centre) has officially commenced operation since 1 January 2005 to assess Level 3 and 4 applications.

6. As at end March 2006, three service suppliers have obtained SI Qualification Certification (including one Level 2 and two Level 4 Certification respectively) from the MII.

7. Furthermore, four service suppliers (including one for Level 3 and three for Level 4 Certification) have submitted formal applications for SI Qualification Certification. The Hong Kong Assessment Centre is now assessing the applications. Another four service suppliers have also submitted preliminary applications to the Hong Kong Assessment Centre for initial screening.

8. To signify the participation and achievement of local service suppliers as well as to encourage more service suppliers to participate in the scheme, a certificate presentation ceremony co-organized by the Office of the Chief Government Information Officer (OGCIO) and the MII was held in Hong Kong on 7 December 2005 for the first batch of service suppliers which have attained SI Qualification Certification. The event was attended by over a hundred industry players.

ARRANGEMENTS FOR EXTENDING THE TRANSITION PERIOD

9. In view of the differences in language, culture, institution and mode of operation between the Mainland and Hong Kong, the local service suppliers have yet to get fully acquainted with the details and requirements of the SI Qualification Certification scheme. As a result, considerable resources and time have been spent on preparing the necessary documents. The resources and time involved in assessment have also greatly exceeded initial expectation. Therefore, the commencement of assessment on the first batch of applications was deferred to mid-May 2005.

10. In view that local service suppliers need more time to familiarize themselves with the SI Qualification Certification scheme and the details of the special arrangements, the OGCIO has requested and the MII agreed to extend the transitional period for an additional year till 31 December 2006.

11. During the extended transitional period, the requirements pertinent to the original transitional period (including application procedures and assessment criteria) still hold. Arrangements for the extended transitional period were promulgated on 31 December 2005.

WAY FORWARD

12. As the local executive body for implementing the SI Qualification Certification scheme, the Hong Kong Assessment Centre will launch a series of promotional and publicity activities. To enhance the industry's awareness and understanding of the scheme, the Hong Kong Assessment Centre will regularly organize experience-sharing meetings so that local service suppliers that have obtained certification can share their experience and exchange views with other industry players. The success stories will also be published on thematic web pages, leaflets and periodicals to arouse more active participation from the industry.

13. Subject to the response of the industry, the Hong Kong Assessment Centre, after completion of assessment for a sufficient number of application cases, intends to seek formal recognition from the MII of its status as an assessment centre in 2006.

14. To ensure the long-term arrangements of the SI Qualification Certification scheme can fully meet the needs and expectations of the local industry, the OGCIO will continue to consult the industry through the Hong Kong Assessment Centre to gain a better understanding on the industry's needs and expectations with respect to the scheme.

CONCLUSION

15. The OGCIO will continue to monitor the SI Qualification

Certification scheme in Hong Kong and work closely with the Hong Kong Assessment Centre and the MII to ensure the on-going development of the scheme in Hong Kong.

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