



Panel on Information Technology and Broadcasting

LC Paper No. CB(1)631/08-09(02)
(English version only)

Dear Sir/Madam,

Response to the Consultation on Control of Obscene and Indecent Articles Ordinance

A. Background

Professional Information Security Association (“PISA”) is a non-profit-distributing association established in 2001 in Hong Kong for local professionals in the information security sector. Our vision is to utilize our expertise and knowledge to help bring prosperity to the society in the Information Age.

PISA regards public policy as one of the pillar in protecting the Internet from criminals and misuse. We had been consulted by Customs and Excise Department on P2P security and investigation issue in 2005. In the past, we also submitted comments on 1. Unsolicited Electronic Messages (UEM) Bill, 2. HKSAR Digital 21 Paper and 3. Copyright Protection in the Digital Environment.

B. Internet Safety for Youngsters

PISA and our members have been promoting Internet Safety by conducting IT security talks at schools, together with Hong Kong Police and ISC2. Internet safety encompass a large scope of issues in the uses of Internet, which including online exploitation, cyber bullying, pornography and privacy. Problematic and illegal content only cover part of the areas in protecting our youngster when using the Internet. HKSAR Government should formulate policies to address the different kind of threats in a systematic and holistic approach. The questions asked in the COIAO consultation paper should be answered considering different area of threats and not only obscene or indecent articles.



C. Technological Aids in the Control of Obscene and Indecent Articles

We agreed that educators and parents are not adequately empowered to cope with the distribution of problematic content, including virus, pornography and violence. The focus of the consultation should focus on helping educators and parents and the co-regulatory regime, which was mentioned in the consultation paper as one of the option, is a balanced approach. The consultation paper correctly identified that subscription-based filtering and voluntary labelling are options worth further study. We believed that technological aids will help parents and educators to protect youngsters from indecent contents but mandatory requirements on local ISPs to filtering contents are suggestions without a clear understanding of Internet architecture and vision on its developments, especially on the areas of distributed nature of Internet and user generated content.

We hope the above opinion will be considered in the consultation process and looking forward to have more discussion on the issue of Internet safety with Legco members.

Yours sincerely,

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Program Director
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