

**Speech by Dr. Elizabeth Quat  
President of Internet Professional Association at the  
iProA Annual Dinner on 29 April, 2006**

**Good Evening, Mr. & Mrs. Dickson, Honorable Guests, Ladies & Gentlemen,**

First of all, I would like to thank the members of tonight's annual dinner organizing committee for organizing such a wonderful event, and special thanks to our Chairlady, Dr. Winnie Tang, Vice President of iProA for her leadership and commitment.

I am so happy to see so many members and friends here and I wish you all a very enjoyable evening.

The year 2005 has been a very busy and fruitful year for iProA. Many of our projects have achieved special breakthrough and accomplishment, especially in cross-industry and cross-border collaborations. It is my great honor to take this opportunity to share with you some major achievements of iProA in the pass year in the areas of:

- 1. Association Development**
- 2. Serving the Community and Building an eInclusion Harmonious Society**
- 3. Exploring & Creating Opportunities for the Industry**
- 4. Developing the Next Generation ICT Professionals**
- 5. Cross-industry & Cross-border Collaborations, and**
- 6. An Open Platform for All**

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**1. Association Development**

From 8 founders to over 1,200 members; from 8 committees to 22 committees and SIGs; from organizing 2 events to the completion of over a hundred; from Youth to Elderly, from local to global;

Today, iProA operates under the leadership of 25 Council Members and its activities were managed by 51 volunteer members of its Executive Committees, together with 4 full time staff members, and supported by over 2,000 volunteers and more than 200 partners.

## **2. Serving the Community and Building an eInclusion Harmonious Society**

**iProA believes in the Power of ICT and we are dedicated to serve the society with ICT and Building an eInclusion Harmonious Society.**

One of our major programmes in bridging the digital divide is the Web Care Campaign that was kicked off in 2001.

Thanks to the leadership of our Vice President and the Web Care Campaign Chairman Mr. William Tang, and the cooperation and support from our partners including 4 Government Departments (GCIO, EMB, SWD, & HAD), NGOs, Parent Teachers Associations, the EdCity, and our Sponsors, we have been able to achieve the following:

- The “**Web Care Campaign 2005 – Award Presentation Ceremony**” was successfully held on 22 October. Over 280 awards were presented during the Ceremony.
- A total of 207 websites from 121 organizations were awarded **the Web Care Award**.
- The **Web Care Alert Team** formed by the professionals from the OGCIO Volunteer team continues to monitor all awarded websites to ensure that they continue to meet the no barrier web site criteria.
- Over 610 students from 30 secondary schools participated in the **School Web Care** programme.
- 134 free **Unified Internet Training Programme** classes were conducted for over 1,500 new Internet users during the year. Accumulated beneficiaries of the programme now reached 10,101.
- To commemorate the achievement of these elderly and women, a Chinese Opera performance was hosted on 14 May in their honor.
- **Over 120 voluntary organizations and 2,000 volunteers** have registered with the programme. In 2005, 5 volunteers were recognized for their outstanding contribution. The youngest volunteer awarded is 15 years old while the oldest

volunteer awarded is 78.

- **Evolving into e-Inclusion Campaign** - “Web Care Campaign” has been evolving into “e-Inclusion Campaign” from 2006 onwards. The theme is to build a harmonious information society for all by bridging digital divide, preventing digital exclusion, and exploiting new digital opportunities through public-private partnership.
- **Mr. Leo Ku, famous artist has accepted our invitation to be the campaign new Ambassador for the coming two years.**
- **The e-Inclusion Campaign 2006 was kicked off in 25 March with over 400 participates.**

➤ **Bridging the Digital Divide in SME - SMEEC**

- Digital Divide also lies between big Corporations and SMEs.
- Aimed at helping SMEs to better understand market opportunities and risks, acquire know-how in financing their businesses, and to use information and communications technology (ICT) effectively, iProA has initiated the formation of the **SME Entrepreneur Consortium (SMEEC)** in 2005 with 18 founding members who represent different stakeholder groups such as banks, corporations, professional bodies, SME associations, and research institutions. .

➤ **Founding of the China Information Accessibility Advancement Alliance**

- On 8 November, iProA together with the **China Welfare Fund for the Handicapped, the Internet Society of China** and other organizations founded the **China Information Accessibility Advancement Alliance** in Beijing. Objective of the Alliance is to bridge digital divide in China.

➤ **SMS and Web Donation Platform**

- Together with the Hong Kong Wireless Technology Industry Association (WTIA) and supported by 6 mobile network operators, we successfully raised over HK\$2 million in two days for the “Crossing Borders Fund Raising Show” for tsunami victims in Asia. The latest mobile technology was employed to enable donations to be made by sending SMS.
- iProA also offered the SMS donation platform to Joyful (Mental Health) Foundation (JMHF) in support of their “Joyful Sunshine 2005” fund raising campaign.

➤ **IT Education Programme**

- Over 1,300 attendees participated in 5 “**Self Management to Excellence**” talks and 24 sessions of “**The New Digital Era Seminar Series**” organized with the Hong Kong Public Libraries, and 2 “**Cyber i ProA Expert Series**” technical seminars co-organized with Cyber.i of Hong Kong University SPACE.

### **3. Exploring & Creating Opportunities for the Industry**

➤ **1<sup>st</sup> Middle East Mission & Global ICT Summit 2005**

- Following the great success of Global ICT Summit 2004 held in Cyberport Hong Kong, we partnered with the Bahrain Ministry of Industry and Commerce and the Bahrain Internet Society in organizing Global ICT Summit 2005 held in Bahrain from 14 to 18 of May to explore business opportunities in the Middle East Market for Hong Kong’s ICT industry.

➤ **China Internet Conference 2005**

- Organized by the Internet Society of China (ISC) and co-organized by iProA & Taipei Hsien Computer Association, the China Internet Conference (CIC) was held in Beijing from 1 to 3 September 2005. This is the fourth year that CIC, one of the largest and most influential information and communication technology platforms in China, was run. And it was the first time professional associations outside Mainland China was invited to co-organize the event.

➤ **iProA Beijing Visit**

- Between 31 August and 3 September, iProA together with the Hong Kong United Youth Association, led a delegation of 30 young business leaders and a group of 47 elite ICT students from Hong Kong to participated in the China Internet Conference and visited various government bureaus and ministries in Beijing including: the Hong Kong Macao Affairs Office of the State Council, the Ministry of Science and Technology, the Ministry of Information Industry, and the China Software Industry Association.

➤ **Nansha Visit and Meeting with the Ministry of Science and Technology, PRC**

- Supported by the HKVCA, iProA organized a delegation to visit the Nansha Economic Development Zone on 10 and 11 of October. The delegation had a fruitful meeting with the Chinese delegation led by Dr. Ma Songde, Vice Minister of the Ministry of Science and Technology of the People's Republic of China, and was briefed on the status of the venture capital industry in China. The delegation also visited the Nansha Science Park during the visit.

#### **4. Developing the Next Generation ICT Professionals**

##### **➤ iYouth Campaign**

- On 2 September, a delegation of 47 Hong Kong's top ICT students led by iProA, participated in the “**Beijing, HK, Macao, & Taiwan Youth Innovation Forum – ICT” in Beijing**. The group exchanged ideas with 70 students from Beijing, Taiwan and Macao, and many renowned speakers at the Forum.

##### **➤ IiTec 2005 - Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macau**

- Organized by iProA Junior Committee and supported by the 3 principle supporting organizations: Hong Kong Computer Society, Guangzhong Computing Federation & Macau Computer Association, the 3<sup>rd</sup> Interschool Internet Technologies Exposition and Conference (IiTec) – **Amway IiTec 2005-Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macau** was held in Cyberport on July. IiTEC 2005 created a unique platform for tertiary students from the Mainland, Hong Kong and Macau to interchange ideas, knowledge and understanding. It exhibited the innovation of more than 100 students from 25 tertiary institutions from the 3 regions. After 2 rounds of judging, 36 outstanding final year projects were selected for exhibition to more than 600 visitors from the government, IT sector, academia, media and general public.

#### **5. Cross-industry & Cross-border Collaborations**

##### **➤ IT in Logistic**

- **LogsCouncil:** iProA was appointed as one of the founding members of HKSAR Logistic Development Council (LogsCouncil) since 2001. We are also the active members of E-logistics, M-logistics, and H-logistics work groups of the LogsCouncil, iProA continued its contribution to the development of the logistics industry in Hong Kong. We are also appointed by the newly established DTTN Co as a member of the DTTN Standard Advisory Group.

➤ **eHealth Consortium**

- iProA joined hands with the Department of Health, OGCIO, Hospital Authority and Hong Kong Society of Medical Informatics to form the eHealth Consortium in 2005. Objectives of the consortium are to facilitate and promote the use of IT as a complementary tool in the health care industry, enhancing the accessibility, quality and effectiveness of health care services in Hong Kong.
- The Consortium will focus in three key areas, namely: Data Sharing and Standardisation, Education and Capacity Building, and eHealth Forum 2006.

➤ **The World Summit Award 2005 & the United Nations' World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS)**

- The World Summit Award (WSA) is a global contest for selecting and promoting the World's best e-contents and applications. iProA has been the official partner in China's participation in WSA since it was founded in 2003.
- In 2005, under the leadership of iProA, three Hong Kong and five Mainland China websites and IT projects were nominated to the World Summit Award 2005. Two of the China nominees won in WSA 2005: "Tianfu Agriculture Information Network" for "Best eBusiness" and the "Virtual Science Museums of China" for "Best eScience".
- The award ceremony was held during the United Nations' World Summit on the Information Society held in Tunis on 16 November, and a press conference was held in Beijing on 1 December to present the winners from China.

➤ **Partnership with the World Digital Solidarity Agency**

- On 22 October 2005, iProA signed an Agreement with the newly established "World Digital Solidarity Agency" which is the technical consultant and execution arm of the "World Digital Solidarity Fund". iProA will represent the Agency in the Asia region and will keep the Agency informed on the means, requests, and interests of potential projects that can be developed in the region.

## **6. An Open Platform for All**

iProA is also a platform for business matching, networking and for fun.

We have organized, co-organized, cooperated and supported meaningful ICT related events in the last year. During 2005, iProA participated and contributed in **10** local, mainland and international events, co-organized **12** events, and actively participated in over **35** events in a supporting role.

At these activities, business networks, connections, new ideas, cooperation opportunities, and friendships were established and developed.

### **Moving forward**

Moving into the seventh year, iProA will turn a new page by introducing our new structure. We have formed a new Supervisory Committee to further enhance our association's governance; we are inviting eminent experts around the world of ICT and non ICT sectors to be members of the newly established Advisory Board for guidance, especially in matters related to cross sector and cross border collaboration; we will invite members to join the Management Committee to lay a more solid foundation of hands and brains to support the projects initiated by the Executive Committee.

Besides continuing in promoting ICT for community services and to explore and create opportunities for our members locally, in mainland China, and in emerging markets, we will launch some important new cross-industry initiatives in 2006. One of the initiatives is the eHealth Consortium. We believe eHealth is essential for the human survival. The overwhelming responses from our partners of the projects are very encouraging and we are looking forward to some very positive results of the projects.

### **Other major activities in 2006 includes:**

- Coorganize the China International Software Expo to be held in Beijing on 1-3 June with the China Software Industry Association
- Organize The Hong Kong ICT Award - eYouth Award and the Exhibition to be held in Cyberport in June
- Coorganize The Hong Kong ICT Award - eGovernment Award with the HKIE IT Division
- Coorganize The Hong Kong ICT Award – Digital Inclusion Award with the HK Council of Social Service
- Coorganize the 2006 China Internet Conference with the Internet Society of China in Beijing on 29-31 Aug
- Coorganize the eHealth Forum with the Hong Kong Society of Medical Informatics Department of Health, Hospital Authority and OGCIO in Hong Kong on 15-16 Sept
- Organize the e-Inclusion Campaign Award Presentation Ceremony on 21 October
- Coorganize the Middle East Mission with the Hong Kong Trade Development Council on Nov
- As well as many other iProA Regular Educational and Networking Events and activities such as seminar, workshop, survey, etc.

### **My Heartfelt Thanks**

Ladies and Gentlemen, after serving as the President of iProA for 6 years, this year will be my last term. No words can express my feeling and experience with iProA. The accomplishment and achievement of iProA from the pass years reflects the tremendous commitment and effort, many days and nights of hard work, and most of all, unbelievable passion of our volunteer members' contribution to the Hong Kong ICT industry and Hong Kong as a whole. None of the projects completed were easy. Behind the scenes were lots of patience, creativities, strategies, compromises, persistence, incredible energy and

unbreakable teamwork. Our members and partners have demonstrated our commitment to the society and have proven that ICT professionals can contribute to Hong Kong, to mankind, and to our world more than simply from technical know how. I feel so blessed and I am so proud of having the opportunity to serve the society with such a great team of professionals. I believe in the next terms iProA will reach even higher levels of achievement under the new leadership and with you all. In the years to come I shall continue to support iProA as whole heartedly as ever, and hopefully be able to utilize the experience I have gathered over the past years to further contribute in serving our community.

Please allow me to express my heartfelt thanks to all Council members, Executive Committee members, members of various Committees and staff of iProA for their hard work and contributions to the Association over the past years; and to all our members, volunteers, and friends who have supported iProA.

(In Cantonese) 我代表互聯網專業協會，充心的感謝所有會員、政府部門、及各界朋友對本協會的支持及鼓勵！

(In Mandarin) 對所有會員、政府部門、及各界朋友對互聯網專業協會的支持及鼓勵，我們表示充心的感謝！

Thank you very much!

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