

## **iProA Annual Dinner 2008 – President’s Speech by Dr. Winnie Tang**

Good evening Mr. Earl Mardle, Mr. Li Gang, honourable guests, ladies & gentlemen!

First of all, I like to thank members of the Organizing Committee of Annual Dinner 2008 for a fabulous job done to have organized the wonderful event tonight for all us. I must thank Mr. Leo Kan, our function Chairman in particular, for his leadership and commitment.

Tonight, I am indeed very happy to see many of our members and friends again and I like to wish you all an enjoyable evening.

Founded in 1999 by Dr. Elizabeth Quat and other founding members, iProA dedicate to advancing the art & science as well as proper application of Internet technology. We witnessed steady growth in less than 10 years and it is my great honour to share with you tonight highlights of some of our achievements in the past year.

Year 2007 certainly has been a great and fulfilling year for many of us at iProA. In the area of **Association Development**, up to first quarter this year, iProA had over 1,900 individual members and 10 corporate members. The association operates under the leadership of a 33 member Council; a 103 member Executive Committee manages projects and activities through 26 Committees with the support of 6 full time staff.

Members of iProA hail from a wide spectrum of professions and many of our members are CEOs and senior executives from leading information technology enterprises. It has been most encouraging that a number of our Council Members have been active in taking up Advisory roles with the Hong Kong SAR Government, industry-related advisory bodies and other community services. This increased involvement is a clear indication of our commitment to the overall long-term development of Hong Kong, ICT industry and other important aspects of our society which I like to personally extend my utmost gratitude to their fine contributions in time and efforts.

Last year, we have in total organized 12 major events, co-organized 18 and supported 52 events and activities which were remarkable achievements.

In the area of **Serving the Community and Building an eInclusion Harmonious Society**, something new we introduced last year was the Digital Lifestyle Initiatives. A seminar series were organized to illustrate the Digital Lifestyle concept with the last seminar leading to a Digital Lifestyle Show held in last November where more than 20 award-winning and state-of-the-art projects from local Universities and leading companies in Digital Lifestyle development were showcased. The seminar series and Show attracted hundreds of participants

from industry and was a huge success.

The e-Inclusion Campaign, a signature event that we have done for a few years already with the aim to bridge digital divide has developed into a very mature event. With over a hundred NGOs as co-organizer, and supported by more than two thousand volunteers, this programme was further extended to the secondary school via “School Web Care Campaign” in 2003. In 2006-07, this programme was co-organized by iProA, Hong Kong Education City Limited, Education and Manpower Bureau (EMB), and supported by 13 Federations of Parent-teacher Associations, and OGCIO.

In the area of **Exploring & Creating Opportunities for the Industry**, we have further strengthened our tie with our motherland China. Last September, I led a delegation to attend the China Internet Conference 2007 where over 3000 delegates from all over the world attended. The World Summit Award China Nomination also presented the “Appreciation Award” to the 8 China nominees at the Conference.

At the Conference, iProA co-organized the e-Commerce Summit, one of the featured events and a senior level cocktail reception whereby more than 150 senior executives, from IT and internet communities of Mainland China, Hong Kong and foreign countries have enjoyed the networking opportunity.

Back in Hong Kong, the roundtable on Modern Services Industry was organized by Internet Society of China and iProA in last November at Cyberport where mainland Chinese and Hong Kong professionals attended have valued the opportunity for in-depth exchanges.

In the international front, in my capacity as the President of iProA, I attended the Winners' Conference of the World Summit Award in early November last year at Venice, Italy. iProA, being the sole official partner for WSA in China, had nominated 8 projects to participate in the WSA Award 2007, competing with more than 24,000 projects submitted from 163 countries. I am indeed delighted to let you know 3 projects from China were amongst the winners of the WSA Award 2007.

In the area of **Developing the Next Generation ICT Professionals** we continued to support talent development both in Hong Kong and neighboring area. The Hong Kong ICT Awards 2007: themed Best Innovation and Research Award we co-organized has attracted over 50 entries and 15 outstanding entries were also displayed at the Exposition for public viewing at Cyberport in last October.

Last year, we also introduced the eYouth Mentorship Program and hosted a seminar entitled “Dialogues with the Experts: Building a successful ICT career and Entrepreneurship” in May. The seminar attracted over 100 university undergraduates from IT-related and business disciplines.

To facilitate cross-boarder learning and sharing, contestants from 6 local institutions participated in The 2007 Amway Pan-Pearl River Delta Region Universities IT Project Competition, joining representatives from 40 universities coming from 11 regions, including 9 provinces in the Pan-Pearl River Delta Region, Hong Kong and Macau. Our youngsters were excited with all these opportunities to have exchanges with professionals and their counterparts in the region.

In the area of **Cross-industry & Cross-border Collaboration**, I must update you on the work we have done on eHealth Consortium. Since its formation in 2005, we have done a lot to have created sufficient awareness and we are most encouraged that Electronic Health Record is being endorsed in the recent D21 Policy Paper. In May last year, a roundtable entitled “Future Strategies for Developing a Common Interoperable Electronic Health Record System in Hong Kong” was organized by the eHealth Consortium. It was the first time that doctors from the private sector gathered for a discussion on issues involved in eHealth adoption.

To support China in this area, the eHealth Consortium took part in the effort as a supporting organization for "The 2nd China International Symposium and Exhibition on Digital Hospital and Electronic Medical Record Application", held in last July in Beijing. The event was jointly organized by the Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST), the Ministry of Health of the PRC, the Ministry of Information Industry of the PRC, together with two other industry associations from the Mainland.

To further our future effort in eHealth, eHealth Consortium have taken on a new structure this year and the prime focus of our work now is on the development of the Validation Platform for eHR Data Standards Conformity.

With the limited time I have here, I hope I have given you a brief account on some of our key activities last year. For more details, I would encourage you to read through our Annual Report which is placed at your seat.

Looking ahead, I trust that our collective efforts, coupled with support from our industrial allies and the government will enable this public-private partnership to continue to do more good for the sustainable growth of the ICT industry and contribute to the economic competitiveness of Hong Kong.

Finally, I like to extend my deepest gratitude to all the Council and Executive Committee Members for their vision and guidance for the Association, to members of the various Committee and staff of iProA for their hard work and contributions, and to the various professional organizations and Hong Kong SAR Government for their unrelenting support. With our shared vision, I look forward to continue working closely with all of you in the years ahead serving the needs of our fellow members and our community at large.

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最後，我謹代表互聯網專業協會，對所有會員、中港政府部門、及各界朋友提供的支持及鼓勵，表示衷心的感謝！

Thank you very much!