

**Speech by Dr. Elizabeth Quat
Immediate Past President of Internet Professional Association at
the iProA Annual Dinner on 26 April, 2007**

Good Evening, Mr. Francis Ho, Honorable Guests, Ladies & Gentlemen,

Our President, Dr. Winnie Tang and the Function Chairman, Mr. Felix See, have given me a very difficult task. I was asked to report to you what iProA has achieved in the year 2006, which is all written in this annual report, in less than 8 minutes.

I think this is a mission impossible but as overcoming obstacles is one of the most important skills I have learnt from iProA, I will try my best and please bear with me on the speed of my presentation.

So here we go:

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Firstly, about Association Development

iProA now represents over 1,400 individual ICT professionals, operated under the leadership of 3 members of the Supervisory Committee, 30 Council Members, 91 volunteer members of its 19 Executive Committees and 6 SIGs, and 6 full time staff, with the support of >2,000 volunteers and >200 partners.

Second, about Serving the Community and Building an eInclusion Harmonious Society

➤ **The e-Inclusion Campaign 2006**

- Evolving from the Web Care Campaign that kicked off in 2001, with the support from our partners, including 4 Government Departments (OGCIO, EMB, SWD, & HAD), sponsors, volunteers and Mr. Leo Ku, the e-Inclusion Campaign 2006 was kicked off in March.
- In October, over **280** Awards were presented during the Award Presentation Ceremony.

- A total of **201** websites were awarded the **Web Care Award**.
- And the **5-year plan** of having Hong Kong websites fulfilling the **W3C International Web Accessibility Standard** has been achieved this year.
- Nearly **1,000** students and **over 500** parents participated in the School Web Care programme.
- Volunteers, with the eldest one over 60 years old, provided over **1,800** hours of volunteer service were recognized.
- Accumulated beneficiaries of the Campaign now reached **10,747**.

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

- Aimed at Bridging the Digital Divide in SME, iProA has initiated the formation of the **SME Entrepreneur Consortium (SMEEC)** in 2005 with **18** founding members.
- Last year, **75** e-learning modules have been identified for the programme. A pilot website has been developed.

➤ **Hong Kong ICT Awards 2006: Digital Inclusion**

- iProA has co-organized the Hong Kong ICT Awards 2006: Digital Inclusion with The Hong Kong Council of Social Service (HKCSS).

➤ **Hong Kong ICT Awards 2006: eGovernment**

- iProA is also the co-organizer of the Hong Kong ICT Awards 2006: eGovernment that led by HKIE ITD.

➤ **- IT Education Programmes**

- We have conducted **21** IT Talks in public libraries to promote ICT knowledge and has attracted over **1,000** attendees.

➤ - **Information Security Enhancement Campaign**

- iProA has successfully launched the **Information Security Enhancement Campaign** with **ISACA**, **HKIEITD**, and the **Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data** to raise awareness of personal data privacy protection among IT professionals.
- The "**Recommended Procedures for IT Practitioners on Personal Data Handling**" has been published.

➤ **The Internet Foundation**

- In Oct, we have incorporated the **Internet Foundation**, a Charitable Organization as a strategic partner of iProA, focus on supporting projects that aims to offer ICT education and make use of ICT to reduce poverty.

Third, About Exploring & Creating Opportunities for the Industry

➤ - **China Internet Market Report**

- We have announced the result of the "**2005-2006 China Internet Market Study**" conducted by the **Internet Society of China** (ISC) and supported by iProA.

➤ - **International Software Expo 2006**

- In June, as one of the co-organizer of the **China International Software Expo**, a signature event of the **China Software Industry Association** (CSIA), iProA has organized a delegation to attend the Expo in Beijing.

➤ - **iProA Beijing Mission**

- Together with the Hong Kong United Youth IT Association, iProA has also led a delegation of 25 young business leaders to visit Beijing in last June.

➤ - **China Internet Conference 2006**

- In Sept, we have led a delegation to participate the **China Internet Conference 2006**, one of the largest and most influential events for the Internet industry in China which iProA is a Special Cooperation party of the event. We have also successfully co-organized the “**2006 China International Digital Content Forum**” with the Internet Society of China.

Forth, About Developing the Next Generation ICT Professionals

➤ - **Pan-Pearl River Delta Region Amway Universities IT Project Competition 2006**

- The Junior Committee of iProA has successfully co-organized the **Pan-Pearl River Delta Region Amway Universities IT Project Competition 2006** with **Guangdong Computer Federation**.

➤ - **Hong Kong ICT Awards 2006: eYouth**

- Our Junior Committee was also selected as the organizer of the **Hong Kong ICT Awards 2006: eYouth Award**.

Fifth, About Cross-industry & Cross-border Collaborations

➤ - **eHealth Consortium**

- Since its formation in 2005, **the eHealth Consortium** and its members have devoted great efforts on **3** initiatives:
 - 1. Published its first draft of “**Healthcare Data Standardization Recommendation**”
 - 2. Organized a series of complimentary workshops named “**Essential eHealth Skills Workshop**” on health informatics.
 - 3. Successfully organized the **eHealth Forum 2006** in September with over 550 elite attendees from 13 countries and regions.

➤ - **Hong Kong Digital Content Alliance**

■ Jointly convened by Cyberport and iProA, with full support from the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer (OGCIO) and the Intellectual Property Department (IPD), and **9** content industry-related associations, we have founded the Hong Kong Digital Content Alliance in Sept, a landmark partnership among key players of the digital content industry and ICT industry.

➤ **Moreover, in 2006, we have organized, co-organized, cooperated and supported a total of 67 meaningful ICT related events.**

My Heartfelt Thanks

Ladies and Gentlemen, 7 years ago, 8 people founded iProA and we believe that technology will change our world and the way we live. If used properly, it will do much good and help us solve our problems.

Today, we have **1,400** members joining us and share the same vision. Moreover, we have over 300 organizations and 3,000 people not only sharing the same vision but working together with us in action.

We know clearly that issues such as digital divide, eHealth development, information security, and digital content protection and development, etc, are big and global issues. And what we have done is just a little step to tackle the big problem.

But we do not stop because the problem is too big and our step is too small. We are not afraid, we are persistent, we are creative in solving problems. Most important is we have the courage to take the lead. We believe this is the HK spirit and the attitude that lead us to success. This is the value we want our next generation to maintain.

It is my greatest honor to have been elected as the President of iProA for the last 6 years and having the opportunity to serve the society with you. The valuable experience I have learnt is beyond words, the memories are unforgettable. Thank you for your support, trust, and most of all, friendship.

To lead iProA to reach an even higher level of achievement, we need a stronger, more visionary, and capable leader. I am confident that under the leadership of Dr. Winnie Tang, the President of iProA and with your support, iProA will become a better platform to create opportunities for the HK ICT industry, and better serving the society.

Please allow me to express my thanks to all Council members, Executive Committee members, members of all Committees, SIG, and staff of iProA for their hard work and contributions to the Association over the past year; and to all our members, volunteers, and friends who have supported iProA. For our new friends tonight, please consider supporting and joining us.

Thank you very much!

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