

iProA 10th Anniversary Dinner 2009 - Report by President Dr. Winnie Tang

The Honorable Mrs. Rita Lau, Dr. Eric Cheng, distinguished guests, members and friends, ladies & gentlemen, Good evening!

Tonight, we proudly celebrate the first decade of iProA – Internet Professional Association, and I am deeply honoured we share the joy together as you have played a part in our splendid first 10 years in serving the industry and the community of Hong Kong.

Before I go any further, I like to sincerely thank our Guest of Honor, the Honorable Mrs. Rita Lau, JP, for gracing our event tonight. I must also thank Dr. Eric Cheng, JP, our function Chairman for his great leadership, and commitment of the Organizing Committee for making tonight a memorable evening for all of us.

In our first decade, iProA and our members have grown and mature in many ways in fulfilling our vision and mission to support the sustainable growth and development of Hong Kong as a world digital city. In ten years, our membership has reached over 2,300 and many of them are CEOs and senior executives from ICT and related industries and professionals from the academia. A number of our Council Members have also taken up advisory roles with the HKSAR Government, industry-related advisory bodies and community services.

For 10 years, we serve with the prime purpose to bridge the digital divide, to connect all human beings. Our 10 years has also built us solid partnership with various government and professional organizations both at home and abroad. During cocktail, we showed you some selected photos on events we organized over the past and you probably found many familiar faces.

Serving the needs of the community, I am pleased to report that the e-Inclusion Campaign, being one of our signature annual events, has gotten bigger and better every year in reaching out to more people in different social strata. Another major milestone this year in this area is the our participation in the Pilot Scheme on Digital Cyber Centre (DCC) organized by the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer, for which we formed the DCC Alliance with The Hong Kong Cyberport Management Company Limited, and the Hong Kong Council of Social Service to carry out the work.

Knowing that developing the next generation ICT professionals is crucial to the sustainable development of the industry, we have, for a number of years, engaged and attracted increasing number of young people in Hong Kong to take part in various exchange programs and

competitions. The Hong Kong ICT Awards: Best Innovation & Research continues to be one of the most competed Awards amongst the young talents. We shall also show a video documentary on iProA later tonight which was produced by IVE students.

As we are conscious about serving the needs of the ICT industry, exploring and creating opportunities for them has always been our priority over the years. Through our collaborations and network built with various local and overseas counterparts, our members have ample of opportunities to connect with industry and trade associations of various kinds and participate in international conferences and summits. The Global ICT Summit, China Internet Conference and the Middle East Mission Tours are some of the popular ones. Cross-industry and cross-border collaboration model have served us well. We are certainly excited with our accomplishments in advocating eHealth, and being appointed as the official China partner of the World Summit Award since 2003. To support the growth and development of the digital entertainment and digital content industry, we signed the Memorandum of Understanding on Digital Entertainment Creative Business Collaboration with the Hong Kong Cyberport Management Company Limited, the Wellington City Council and the New Zealand Institute of Screen Innovation this March to strengthen ties in creative digital entertainment business development with our overseas counterparts.

With the limited time I have here, I hope I have given you a brief account on our works and I encourage you to read through our 10th Anniversary - Special Edition which is placed at your seat for more information.

With the challenging world financial situation in the backdrop, I believe we can gain more mileage through our united efforts and leverage on one another to create better synergy. Looking ahead, I am confident that our on-going collaboration will enable us to continue with our momentum to serve the needs of our fellow members and ICT industry to benefit our community at large. To continue with our work, we count on the continuous support from our Council Members, Executive Committee Members, members of various Committees, and staff of iProA. We trust that we shall continue to receive the invaluable support from the various Government Departments, professional bodies and associations, members & friends, volunteers, partners and sponsors in the years to come! For that, let's give yourself a round of applause.

最後，我謹代表互聯網專業協會，對所有會員、中港政府部門、及各界朋友在過去十年提供的支持及鼓勵，表示衷心的感謝！

Thank you very much and have a great evening!