

Panel on Information Technology and Broadcasting,
Legislative Council Secretariat,
Legislative Council Complex,
1 Legislative Council Road,
Central, Hong Kong.

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(English version only)

9 May 2014

Dear Sir/Madam,

ICT PROFESSIONAL RECOGNITION FRAMEWORK IN HONG KONG

We are writing this letter on behalf of the IET Hong Kong to LegCo in support of the establishment of a unified Information and Communication Technology Professional Recognition Framework in Hong Kong.

As a large local Network of more than 4,500 members who have interests in various areas related to engineering and technology, we, the IET Hong Kong, have more than one-third of members are either ICT Professionals or Practitioners. We strongly believe that it is essential to have a unified professional recognition framework to increase the reputation, values and quality of our ICT practices. We are also pleased to know that the Taskforce on ICT Professional Development and Recognition has examined the professional qualification scheme which is practiced by the IET.

To establish a successful with reputation ICT professional recognition framework in Hong Kong, the initial and most important criteria is to attract ICT Professionals, Practitioners and their employers to take part in the framework. We suggest the HKSAR Government should take a pioneer and leading role by promoting the recognition of the said ICT professional recognition framework along the recruitment of civil servants, government tendering and critical ICT job functions (such as medical, healthcare, finance, computer forensic and IT security, etc.).

We foresee that establishing a unified ICT professional recognition framework in Hong Kong by aligning with international practices will only be the first step. In view of the rapid development of ICT and the globalization trend in the world, having a local ICT professional recognition framework is not sufficient for ICT Practitioners in Hong Kong to participate in various tasks and projects in the world. As we have already made reference to various frameworks, such as SFIA, IT Certified Professional in Canada, etc., we should setup a Reciprocal Recognition Agreement between the frameworks in Hong Kong and worldwide to increase the international representation of our Hong Kong ICT Professionals.

As technologies in ICT industry change rapidly, we suggest the proposed Council of the Professional Recognition Framework can take an advisory role to deliver recommendation yearly about the latest IT information (e.g. project management methodology, security implementation, software development tools etc.) to institutions which confer qualification to IT professionals. Hence, the newly proposed skill framework can be employed to introduce the latest and essential skill sets to IT professionals.

To maintain the up-to-date standard and continuous development of the qualified institutions listed in the ICT Professional Recognition Framework, we suggest the council to assess those qualified institutions on regular basis (e.g. once every 3 years) in order to ensure the qualifying procedures in those institutions can fulfill the requirements of the ICT sector and that their members are willing to update their knowledge and skills regularly to meet the ICT standards. As different institutions will have its own qualifying procedure to assess their members, we also propose to setup an alignment mechanism to align different qualification or membership levels in various institutions such that we can have a common reference platform to ensure all the qualifying institutions can meet the standard required by the framework.

Thank you for your attention.

Yours faithfully,

IET Hong Kong