To: **Panel on Information Technology and Broadcasting**

**Special meeting on
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in Conference Room 1 of the Legislative Council Complex**

From:

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Opinions on

Proposal to establish a unified information and communications technology (ICT) professional recognition framework in Hong Kong:

As a (Chair) professor and a qualified professional in ICT, I would like to give my strongest support to the captioned proposal for the following reasons:

An ICT professional community of the highest standard is not only important but essential to Hong Kong.

WHY:

(1) The Four Pillar Industries in the Hong Kong economy are Finance, Trading & logistic, Tourism, and Professional Services. However, the pillar of these 4 pillars is ICT. Just image what would happen if the stock market trading stop for few hours due to computer software or hardware faults.

(2) There many mission critical computer and network systems which will cause significant financial and reputation consequences as well as safety problems and human lives. For example: banking and finance trading systems, auto piloting systems, train scheduling and control system.

(3) New economy of Hong Kong depends on the success of ICT itself and its support to other industries. Tencent, and Alibaba of China, and Microsoft, Google, Yahoo and Facebook of USA are just a few examples of the successful stories of creating giant software industries which HK has missed out mostly. Of course, it is never too late to start building up a strong ICT professional community and startup ICT companies in Hong Kong to fight for a fair share in the future.

(4) We need the very best ICT professionals to ensure computer security to fight computer hackers and virus attacks.

HOW:

(1) To address the above points, we need to raise the societal status for ICT profession in Hong Kong so that it will be as attractive and high standard as professional doctors, accountants or lawyers. To attract the best students and overseas elitists into the ICT field in Hong Kong, the first thing we need to do is to establish a unified information and communications technology professional recognition framework so that we can set a fair and high standard to qualify the ICT professionals. The qualification should be recognizable locally, nationally and internationally. The recognition should be mutual with overseas ones.

(2) Existing professional bodies in Hong Kong should be able to participate in the proposed framework with their existing assessment procedures after improvement, alignment, and approval form a new authorized and centralized Governing Body.