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May 8, 2014

The Honorable Members of the Legislative Council,

I am the Chairman of the iASPEC Technologies Group. iASPEC is software company founded in Hong Kong in the year 1988. In the past 26 years, we maintained our company headquarters in Hong Kong while the subsidiaries of the group has expanded into the Mainland and North America.

In my professional capacity, I am a member of the Hong Kong Computer Society and a conferred Distinguished Fellow of the Society since 1996. I serve as academic advisors to many ICT related disciplines in the international and local tertiary institutions. This includes: the University of California, the Hong Kong University, Chinese University of Hong Kong, University of Science and Technology, City University, Polytechnic University and Lingnan University.
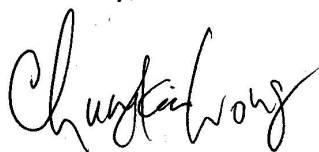
I fully support this proposal for establishing a unified ICT professional recognition framework in Hong Kong. This proposed Framework will in many ways, help Hong Kong in advancing the professional standards and standing of its community of ICT practitioners. Consequently, the ICT industry will be strengthened with the availability of a larger pool of high caliber and very talented professionals.

It is a visionary Framework and the suggested implementation approach is very pragmatic. I have no reservation in supporting it. Some of the key features of the design of the Framework are worth noting:

- It is a <u>voluntary</u> scheme. The gradual adoption of the Framework as individuals and companies see fit can avoid the disruptive changes in the industry. It will give the Framework the needed time to develop its deep roots for sustainable growth.

- It is <u>inclusive</u> in nature. In a fair and open manner, different professional bodies including international ones that are meeting the published requirements can submit their professional certification schemes for recognition under this Framework. This is particularly important to the ICT industry as the knowledge and skills requirements of its professionals continue to change. Broad based participation from different professional bodies with different skills focus is critical to the success of this Framework.

- It paves the way to <u>mutual recognition</u> with other similar schemes in the Mainland and in the international community. A unified Framework provides a set of consistent standards by which professional organizations and certification authorities in other jurisdictions can make reference to in establishing mutual recognitions. The Hong Kong Computer Society has in the past worked very hard in establishing mutual recognition for its certified professional titles with those in the Mainland. The lack of an independent authority in Hong Kong with the mandate to set and uphold standards has hindered its progress.

With all these said, I appeal to the members in the ITB Panel for your support of this proposed Framework.

Sincerely,

C.K. Wong, Ph.D.
Chairman
iASPEC Technologies Group