

## News

### **Outbreak of severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS)**

The recent and continuing outbreak of severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS), or Atypical Pneumonia, in Hong Kong has affected our member companies and their employees and families. The Federation has received from the Trade and Industry Department a Health Advice for the Prevention of Severe Respiratory Syndrome (Atypical Pneumonia) for the Trade and Industry Sector, and has been requested to disseminate the information to you. For more information, please click here <http://ws.magicallly.com/GetPublicFile.jsp?objID=1931> to retrieve the file.

### **IT Solution Directory**

HKITF has received support from the SME Development Fund administered by the Trade and Industry Department (TID), HKSAR Government to launch an IT Solution Directory project in November 2002. The Hong Kong Productivity Council will be responsible for project implementation. This Directory will capture solutions from all IT solution providers in Hong Kong. We are accepting registration from IT Solution Providers. Please visit <http://www.itsolutiondirectory.org.hk> or <http://www.itsolution.org.hk> sign up or fax back the attached form to 2788-5959.

Enquiry, please contact Ms. Rachel Wong (Tel: 2287-8016, Fax: 2287-8038 or email: [Rachel.wong@hkitf.org.hk](mailto:Rachel.wong@hkitf.org.hk)) Mr. Sam Lin (Tel: 2788-5839, Fax: 2788-5959 or email: [samlin@hkpc.org](mailto:samlin@hkpc.org))

### **Survey on HK IT sector in the Pearl River Delta (PRD) Region Prospects and Barriers**

We sincerely invite you to take part in the captioned survey, in order to understand the situation Hong Kong IT companies face when doing/operating business in PRD Region.

The Chief Executive suggested in his Policy Address 2003 to promote the economic integration between Hong Kong and the PRD Region. The survey aims at collecting opinions from IT sector on difficulties you encountered when operating in that Region and your views on the prospects of that Region. The survey is co-organized by Hong Kong Information Technology Federation (HKITF), together with Hong Kong Wireless Technology Industry Association (WTIA), Information Software and Industry Association (ISIA), Internet and Telecom Association of Hong Kong, The Society of Hong Kong Telecommunication Service Providers, Hong Kong Web Hosting Association and the Office of Mr. Sin Chung Kai Legislative Councillor (IT). We would be grateful if you can spend a few minutes to complete the questionnaire on behalf of your company (please click here to retrieve the questionnaire <http://ws.magicallly.com/GetPublicFile.jsp?objID=1893> and <http://ws.magicallly.com/GetPublicFile.jsp?objID=1894> ). You can return the questionnaire by faxing it to 25099688 or posting it to Room 601, Citibank Tower, 3 Garden Road, Central, HK, by April 25, 2003.

\*All questionnaires will be treated in the strictest confidence. Your details will not be passed on to anyone, the data entry will be entered on an anonymous basis.

For any enquires, please contact Ms. WONG Fung Chu at 25093211 or via email [fcwong@sinchungkai.org.hk](mailto:fcwong@sinchungkai.org.hk)

### **Cyber 2005**

A bi-weekly newsletter (please click here <http://www.hkitf.org/email/Cyber2005.htm> to retrieve) released by Sin Chung Kai, Legislative Councillor (IT on March 5, 2003)

### **Invitation to join HKIRC as a member**

Hong Kong Internet Registration Corporation Limited ("HKIRC") cordially invites you to enrol for its membership. HKIRC,

a non-profit-making and non-statutory company established on 14 December 2001, is entrusted by the HKSAR Government to administer Internet domain names under ".hk". In addition, HKIRC represents Hong Kong in international Internet forums and plays a key role in facilitating Hong Kong's e-business development.

Interested members, you can enrol for membership online by clicking this link: <https://members.hkirc.net.hk/MRS/index.jsp>.

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact HKIRC at +852 2319 1313 or e-mail at

[membersenquiry@hkirc.net.hk](mailto:membersenquiry@hkirc.net.hk)

### **New SME Funding Schemes proposals**

SME Committee has submitted its report on the SME Fund, and the new proposals have been endorsed by the Chief Executive and will soon be officially implemented. The report can be found at:

[http://www.tid.gov.hk/english/aboutus/publications/smes/review\\_smereport.html](http://www.tid.gov.hk/english/aboutus/publications/smes/review_smereport.html)

[http://www.tid.gov.hk/tc\\_chi/aboutus/publications/smes/review\\_smereport.html](http://www.tid.gov.hk/tc_chi/aboutus/publications/smes/review_smereport.html)

The highlights of the new improvements for the SME Fund include:

#### **Business Installation and Equipment Loan Guarantee Scheme**

- Business installation and equipment loan guarantee -- \$2M (was \$1M)
- Conditional working capital loan guarantee (new) -- the lesser of \$1M or 50% of the guarantee for business installation and equipment loans approved by approved lenders
- Accounts receivable loan guarantee (new) -- the lesser of \$1M or 50% of loans approved by approved lenders

#### **SME Export Marketing Fund**

- Maximum grant per SME, on a cumulative basis -- \$40,000 (was \$10,000)
- Maximum grant per application: the lesser of \$20,000, or 50% of the total spent on fundable items

#### **SME Training Fund**

- Grant for employers and employees, on cumulative basis -- \$10,000 and \$20,000, respectively (was \$5,000 and \$10,000)

These proposals have taken into accounts from many industry organizations including HKITF. We are particularly supportive of the Accounts receivable loan guarantee which we believe will be particularly beneficial to some IT SMEs which could not take advantage of the business installation and equipment loan guarantee.

However, HKITF would continue to lobby the Government to convert the loan guarantee scheme into a matching basis (with a proper ceiling), similar to other regional government practices, so as to provide our user SMEs a better incentive to adopt IT and e-commerce.

For more information about the above schemes, please contact the Trade and Industry Dept at [enquiry@tid.gov.hk](mailto:enquiry@tid.gov.hk) or 2392 2922.

### **USITO Email Heads-up, Beijing Issues Draft Plan for Digital Olympics to Seek Public Comment**

In accordance with issuing arrangement concerning Special Programme for Action Plan for Beijing (draft for seeking public comments) and the 29th Olympic Organizing Committee, a Special Programme for Construction of Digital Olympics (draft for soliciting public comments) has been issued with the Chinese and English versions available through Beijing Olympic Organizing Committee's Website (<http://www.Beijing-2008.org>). Companies and individuals are welcome to send in comments and suggestions in written form to Beijing Municipal Office of Informatization by mail, fax, and e-mail. Following is the detailed contact information:

To: General Department, Beijing Municipal Office of Informatization (The words 'Olympic Games' must be marked on your letter or fax) Address: No. 3, Nanlishi Road Toutiao, Xicheng, Beijing Fax: (86-10) 86821092 E-mail box: [bj2008@bnii.gov.cn](mailto:bj2008@bnii.gov.cn) Comments can also be made through the city's hotline: Daytime (Mon. to Friday):(86-10) 6805-9860, 6801-3106 (USITO members can also e-mail [usito@usito.org](mailto:usito@usito.org) for an English version of the plan)

## **Invitation to join SME Centre Membership**

You are cordially invited to join SME Centre of Hong Kong Productivity Council as their affiliate members. Once joined as their affiliate members, you can attend their seminars, use their advisory services and apply their training courses with discount. Please click here <http://www.hkitf.org/pdf/InvitationToJoinSMECentreMembersip.pdf> to retrieve invitation letter and application form for your information. For any enquiries, please feel free to contact SME Centre at 2778-1166.

## **Legal Assistance - a missing link in your supply chain? Legal Assistance Scheme at HK\$1,000 per Month**

As we all know, although many IT SMEs acknowledge their dealings necessarily involve legal aspects, the high legal fees and the management time SMEs must take to explain the technical background of their dealings often deter them from seeking legal assistance.

Facing the demand for legal assistance mentioned above, HKPC has negotiated substantially discounted rates with Stevenson, Wong & Co. to provide legal services under the Legal Assistance Scheme for IT SMEs to you. For as little as HK\$1,000 per month (subject to the 3-month minimum subscription period), you can enjoy one hour of general IT/Commercial legal services of a non-litigious nature to be provided by the Commercial/IT Practice Group of Stevenson, Wong & Co. The said general IT/Commercial legal services will include attendances, telephone advice, documentation drafting and correspondence, which may already address many of IT SMEs' daily legal requirements. For details of the Scheme, please click here <http://www.hkitf.org/pdf/LegalAssistant28Oct02am118.pdf> to retrieve the brochure.

For any further information, please feel free to contact Ms Cassie Pang of the Hong Kong Productivity Council at 2788-6124 or email [cassie@hkpc.org](mailto:cassie@hkpc.org)

## **COMPSAC 2003 Call For Contributions (Sept 30 - Oct 3 2003)**

<http://salmosa.kaist.ac.kr/compsac2003>

COMPSAC is the major international forum for researchers, practitioners, managers, and policy makers interested in computer software and applications. It was first held in Chicago in 1977, and since then it has been one of the major forums for researchers, practitioners, and managers in academia, industry, and government to advance the state of art in software technologies and practices. The technical program includes research papers, industrial case studies, workshops, keynote presentations, and panel discussions. \_For enquiries, please contact the Operations Chair at:

F.T. Chan, The University of Hong Kong

Email: [ftchan@hkuspace.hku.hk](mailto:ftchan@hkuspace.hku.hk) <<mailto:ftchan@hkuspace.hku.hk>>

FURTHER INFORMATION: Please refer to COMPSAC 2003 web site (<http://salmosa.kaist.ac.kr/compsac2003>).

## **Events**

### **Capability Maturity Model (CMM) Training Series (May-June 2003)**

In 1986, the Software Engineering Institute (SEI) started an initiative to start the construction of a process maturity framework that would help stabilize the processes and environment in which software development takes place. This framework is the Capability Maturity Model (CMM).

The CMM describes the principles and practices underlying software process maturity. It is intended to help software organizations improve the maturity of their software processes in terms of an evolutionary path from ad hoc, chaotic processes to mature, disciplined software processes. It provides a framework for organizing these steps into five maturity levels (Initial, Repeatable, Defined, Managed and Optimizing) that become successive foundations for continuous process improvement. These five maturity levels define a scale for measuring the maturity of the software process of an organization and for evaluating its software process capability. The levels also help prioritize process improvement efforts.

HKITF, HKCS, HKQAA, HKPC and ISIA are organizing the CMM Training Series which will be held in May to June 2003.

You are cordially invited to attend the CMM Training Series. For the further information and schedules, we will inform you the details as soon as possible. In the meantime, please feel free to contact Ms. Rachel Wong at 2287-8016 or Ms. Elsa Lee of HKPC at 2788-5427 if you have any questions.

### **ISIA IT Solutions Pavilion 2003**

"ISIA IT Solutions Pavilion 2003", which is supported by the SME Development Fund of the HKSAR Government, to set up IT solutions pavilions in various popular exhibitions at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Center this year.

Selected upcoming exhibitions are:

- SME Market Day (5-7 June)
- Watch and Clock Fair (3-7 September)
- Optical Fair (5-7 November)

#### **Information and Software Industry Association (ISIA)**

Enquiry Tel: 2622 2867 Fax: 2622 2731 Email: [info@isia.org.hk](mailto:info@isia.org.hk) Website: [www.isia.org.hk](http://www.isia.org.hk)

The application deadline is on **10 April 2003**, exhibition spaces are very limited, so hurry up and register NOW. Please click here <http://ws.magically.com/GetPublicFile.jsp?objID=1932> to retrieve the registration form and information about the Program. Should you have any enquiries about the Program, please feel free to contact ISIA Secretariat at 2622 2867.

### **Enterprise Portal & Web Services Conference 2003/ Hong Kong**

The Enterprise Portal & Web Services Conference brings together key industry participants around the issues of enterprise portal and corporate web deployment and optimization. The conference also examines the role of web services in enterprise integration framework and focuses on the key role corporate portals can play as the nexus of content management and distribution, application and web services integration, and communication between corporation and their employees, customers and business partners.

#### **Details:**

Date: June 18, 2003 (Wednesday)

Venue: Room 401, Hong Kong Convention & Exhibition Center, Wanchai, Hong Kong

Distinguish speaker: Hugo HASS, Web Services Activity Lead, Web Services Architecture Working Group, W3C Team Contact, World Wide Web Consortium

For more information, please visit <http://www.enterpriseportal.com.hk/> or contact Ms. Janice Wong at [janice\\_wong@idgexpo.com.hk](mailto:janice_wong@idgexpo.com.hk)

### **e-Government Summit Hong Kong 2003**

The e-Government Summit Hong Kong 2003 is the first of its kind event being held in Hong Kong. It aims to serve as a medium to publicize government's IT initiatives and demonstrate the progress of its achievements. The framework and approach creates a platform for e-Government practitioners and IT professionals in Asia Pacific to exchange valuable experience and update latest e-Government technology.

#### **Conference details:**

Date: July 15-16, 2003

Venue: HKCEC Level 6, Old Wing

Organizer: IDG World Expo (Asia) Ltd

Enquiry: Ms. Vanessa Lai (Tel: 2233-9348 Email: [Vanessa\\_lai@idgexpo.com.hk](mailto:Vanessa_lai@idgexpo.com.hk))

#### **Officiating Guest:**

Henry TANG, GBS, JP, Secretary for Commerce, Industry and Technology, Hong Kong Special Administration Region

For more details, please visit <http://www.egov-summit.com.hk/>

## **Information Technology Internship Program (ITIP)**

We have pleasure to inform you that CUHK has organized the Information Technology Internship Program (ITIP) for the Faculty of Engineering, CUHK. ITIP was designed to expose their young I.T. talents to help the local industry a year prior to their graduation. You are cordially invited to actively participate in it. According to your schedule and resources, you could select from one or more of the ITIP schemes: 1-Year Placement, Summer Placement and Part-time Mentorship. For more details, please refer to attached flyer or visit <http://www.cintec.cuhk.edu.hk/itip/itip.pdf> Interested members, please fill out the registration form and send it back to Mr. Keith Tang at Room 601, Ho Sin Hang Engineering Bldg, The Chinese University of Hong Kong, Shatin. or fax to 2603-7327. For any questions, please feel free to contact Mr. Keith Tang at 2609-8218 or keith@cintec.cuhk.edu.hk

## **China-focus Seminar for SMEs**

Hong Kong Productivity Council and Renmin University of China will jointly organise a series of China-focus seminars for SMEs.

Date & Time: April 26, May 17, June 21 (Sat) - 10:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Place: HK Productivity Council, Kln Tong

Speaker: Professors from Renmin University of China

Fee: \$100 for member / \$200 for non-member (HKITF's members are offered the member fee)

Language: Cantonese

Enquiry: Ms. Ip of HK Productivity Council (Tel: 2778 1166 / 2788 5331)

For more information, please click here <http://ws.magically.com/GetPublicFile.jsp?objID=1930> to retrieve the file.

Interested members, please return the completed application form to HKPC at 2784-1888.

## **Welcome for new members**

### **Full members:**

Comspire Technologies Limited

T-Systems China Limited

IAdvantage Limited

### **Associate members:**

Applied Technology Center (ATC), HKUST

### **Affiliate members:**

Mr. Ying King-Lam

Suggestions on how to improve this newsletter are welcome.

Suggestion:

Please add to the following within the HKITF member to the mailing list:

Name:

Title: Email:

### ***Data Privacy***

You have the right to make a data access, correction or cancellation request concerning your personal data. If you do not want to receive this newsletter anymore, please reply to this mail and put "Remove" in the subject field.