hkirc

Registrar Accreditation Program

Become a '.hk' Registrar
Creating a Winning Business Partnership

HKIRC Registrar Accreditation Program

Hong Kong Internet Registration Corporation Limited (HKIRC), a non-profit organisation designated by the Government of HKSAR to administer the registration of Internet domain names under the '.hk' country-code top-level domain, launches the Registrar Accreditation Program through which our service partners, interested companies and organizations will be accredited to become '.hk' registrars.

With the launch of the HKIRC Registrar Accreditation Program, HKIRC will continue to be the Registry overseeing the registration policies for '.hk' and acting as a 'wholesaler' to provide full support of '.hk' domain name registration to Accredited Registrars, whereas Accredited Registrars will take up the role of 'retailer' to directly provide '.hk' domain name registration services to the end users. Accredited Registrars have to build up direct customer relationship with end-users through a '.hk' registration agreement.

Under this program, the Accredited Registrar will be in a better position to provide one-stop service of '.hk' Internet domain name registration and other Internet services such as web hosting, email and online shopping platform in an effective, customer-centric and sustainable manner and achieve greater customer satisfaction. A '.hk' registrar will provide after-sales '.hk' services such as renewal and change of name server in a proactive manner without any interference from HKIRC.

By building a closer cooperative relationship with each other, the market for '.hk' can be further expanded and a comprehensive domain name registration services can be provided.

What are the benefits to Accredited Registrars?

✅ Save costs by paying HKIRC a wholesale price for both new domain name registrations and renewals.

✅ Save time and manpower through the use of an automated registration interface conforming to international standards.

✅ Accredited registrars will be authorized to use a unique 'Accredited Registrar' branded logo as a recognition within the industry to uplift customer confidence and trust in their ability and expertise to provide good quality domain name registration services. By gaining this recognition, business connections with partners can be built up to reach full business potential.

✅ With full and proactive support from HKIRC in promoting '.hk', business success can be ensured through ongoing collaboration and evaluation.

✅ Provide customized marketing resources and tools such as campaign materials and activity guides so as to promote '.hk' in a cost and time effective manner.

✅ Stay tuned with the latest news and technology trends by obtaining HKIRC newsletters and reports.

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Which types of business are qualified to join?

✔️ Business which provides domain name registration services to their clients

✔️ Business with proven experience in providing domain name registration services for customers

Examples of qualifying businesses

Internet service companies/ Resellers/ IT and Telecom related companies	Internet service providers (ISP); value-added resellers; software and hardware vendors; support service providers and systems integrators with proven experience in domain registration
Professional Firms/ Consulting service providers	Company secretarial firms; law firms and trademark companies
Non-profit organizations	Academic institutions; IT/Internet-related NGOs; Government bodies

What are the responsibilities of Accredited Registrars?

✅ Provide '.hk' domain name registration service including new registration, renewal, modification, transfer and cancellation services, sending notification of renewal reminders, etc.

✅ Provide high quality customer services to domain registrants and handle relevant complaints.

✅ Verify documents submitted for '.hk' domain applications and ensure that all '.hk' domain by HKIRC are eligible.

✅ Implement orders or judgments issued by the court or tribunals and decisions rendered for '.hk' domain disputes by the Arbitration Panel.

✅ Minimize the possibility that registered '.hk' domains are used for malicious purposes. Measures to be taken include timely suspension of '.hk' domains involved in phishing or spamvertising and review of applications to identify and stop attempts to register '.hk' domain names intended to be used for malicious purposes

✅ Meet the performance objectives prescribed by HKIRC from time to time.

✅ Ensure compliance by resellers and end with Agreement and Policies which include:
- Registrar Agreement (including Code of Practice)
- Published Policies

What are the accreditation criteria?

✓ **Strong financial and technical capability with necessary hardware and software to carry out all of its functions as a registrar**

✓ **Pass the technical testing procedure and successfully complete a test run without any errors**

✓ **Pay the required fees as illustrated in the latter part of this leaflet**

What is the fee of joining the program?

Fees payable are tabulated as below.

Fee	Amount
1. Application Fee	HK$10,000 (one-off)
2. Accreditation Fee (the yearly fee to maintain accreditation)	HK$10,000 per year
3. Minimum Balance in Registrar Account	Each registrar will have a debit account to pay for new registrations and renewal of '.hk' domain names automatically. This account has to be "topped up" to a minimum balance from time to time to ensure that there is no interruption to registration service.
	Minimum balance (HK$) $15 per domain name up to a total of $15,000

What is the application procedure?

Submission of application form, documents and application fee

HKIRC evaluates application

Applicant conducts technical testing

HKIRC evaluates technical testing result

HKIRC announces accreditation result

Submission of payment

Registrar in operations

Application Form and Relevant Documents

Click here to download the Application Form.
Click here to download the Registrar Agreement.
Click here to download the Published '.hk' Policies, Procedures and Guidelines.

To understand more about this program, please go to https://www.hkirc.hk

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