

Chairman's Statement

主席報告



Chairman 主席

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Ensuring the Cornerstone of Internet to
Create Favorable Environment

Embracing Digital Transformation for a
New Chapter in Smart Cities

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共迎數碼轉型機遇 同創智慧城市新篇章

Year 2023 marked the beginning of the full recovery phase for Hong Kong under the Government's active direction. Hong Kong once again assumed its role as an international hub, as witnessed by the number of world-class international events and summits held in the city throughout the year. Part of this recovery process has involved "Telling Good Stories about Hong Kong" to the world, something HKIRC has been actively doing in its role as the administrator of the ".hk" and ". 香港 " internet domain names. In this challenging year, we are particularly grateful for the guidance and support of the Government, the industries, our directors and partners, which have enabled HKIRC to meet the challenges and fulfil its mission. We would like to take this opportunity to express our most sincere gratitude to all parties.

2023 年，本港在政府積極領導下朝全面復常的方向邁進。多個世界級國際盛事、高峰論壇相繼進行，香港再次擔任國際樞紐的角色。在「向世界說好香港」的大方向下，HKIRC 作為網絡上代表香港的「.hk」及「. 香港」域名監管機構，除了一如既往推動互聯網的應用，處理每日的域名服務和註冊外，亦努力透過不同的機會向外推廣「.hk」及「. 香港」，一方面為不同業界和市民大眾提供服務，一方面實踐專業服務的宗旨。在這個充滿挑戰的一年裏，我們要特別感謝政府、業界、董事和合作伙伴的指導與支持，HKIRC 方能迎難以上，完成不同的工作和使命，在此向各方致以最誠懇的謝意。

With the resurgence of the epidemic, economic activities and international interactions have revived. revitalisation To effectively publicise the efforts of HKIRC and promote the usage of the ".hk" and ". 香港 " domains, HKIRC was delighted to join hands with the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) in the year to organise the Asia Pacific Domain Name System Forum 2023. The event attracted over 400 domain name experts from around the world. Apart from addressing important issues relating to cyber security and emerging technologies, the forum considered online business growth and digital brand protection. It also looked at the potential impact of domain name regulation, policy and technological developments on the industry. This was the first international event organised by HKIRC since the pandemic. It represented a significant opportunity for us to promote the ".hk" and ". 香港 " domain names and showcase Hong Kong's Internet development initiatives to the world. We will continue to seek similar engagement opportunities, aiming to create more platforms for exchange and cooperation among the Internet community, enterprises and organisations, both locally and abroad.

Hong Kong's internet network has faced some unprecedented cyber threats over the past year, with attacks being carried out on both public and private organisations as well as businesses. In recognition of the rising tide of cyber crime, HKIRC has been heavily involved in recent years with cyber security education and publicity to raise cyber security awareness, as well as working closely with different organisations to develop synergies in cyber defence. One important event in the year was the Cyber security Symposium 2023, jointly organised by HKIRC and the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer (OGCIO), which attracted many experts from leading cyber security service providers in the Mainland. The aim of the symposium was to boost cyber security exchange between Hong Kong and the Mainland and to introduce small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) to advanced enterprise cyber security solutions. The symposium saw a number of industry experts deliver presentations on and demonstrate the latest cyber defence technologies, helping attendees understand cyber threat trends and raise their cyber security awareness. The event also provided a business matching platform to provide more choices of reliable high quality security services for local users, and more generally to foster greater cooperation between the Mainland China and Hong Kong cyber security industries. The forum attracted over 450 industry experts and stakeholders in its first year, and opened up numerous opportunities for future collaboration. We expect to see more frequent and in-depth cyber security cooperation between Mainland China and Hong Kong as more cyber security service providers set up their bases in Hong Kong in the future.

隨着疫後復常，經濟活動和國際地域交流再次活躍起來。為了向外宣傳 HKIRC 的工作和推廣「.hk」及「. 香港」的多元價值，HKIRC 聯同互聯網名稱與數字地址分配機構（Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers，ICANN）舉辦了「2023 年亞太域名系統論壇」，吸引了超過 400 位來自世界各地的域名專家匯聚香港。除探討網絡安全和新興技術等議題以外，亦包括促進在線業務增長和數碼品牌保障。同時亦讓參與者能理解域名的監管和發展、政策和技術發展對行業的潛在影響等。是次論壇乃 HKIRC 於疫情過後首個舉辦的國際級活動，能夠藉此機會向世界推廣「.hk」及「. 香港」域名及展示香港在互聯網領域上的參與，意義非凡。日後亦會繼續爭取對外接軌的機會，為本地以及海外的互聯網社群、企業和機構打造更多的交流合作的平台。

過去一年，公私營機構和企業遭受網絡攻擊，香港的網絡受到前所未有的威脅。近年 HKIRC 從多方面進行網絡安全相關的教育和宣傳推廣，致力普及網絡安全意識，並透過與不同單位的合作，共同發揮協同防禦的效能，以應對網絡罪行。HKIRC 與政府資訊科技總監辦公室合作，舉辦的「網絡安全技術論壇 2023」便是其中一項重點項目，邀請了多個國內頂尖網絡安全服務商的專家及領導級人物出席論壇，加強中港交流，亦為中小企等提供先進的企業級網絡安全方案。論壇上一眾業內專家進行演講分享，展示最新的網絡防禦技術，讓企業和機構了解網絡威脅趨勢，提高網絡安全意識。論壇還提供了商務對接平台，以促進中港合作，並為本地用戶提供更多優質可靠的安全服務選擇。論壇首次舉辦即成功吸引了超過 450 位業界專家及持份者來賓參與，並為未來的合作開啟了無數可能。期望在日後能有更多的網絡安全服務提供者落戶香港，中港兩地彼此能促成更頻繁和深入的合作，發揮中港合作的獨特優勢，攜手保障網絡生態，維護香港互聯網社群的最大利益。

However, cyber security is only as effective as the individuals who use it. Only by minimising human error and avoiding security loopholes can the risk of cyber attacks be significantly reduced. Recognising this, HKIRC will continue its cyber security education efforts at different levels. For example, it will continue providing free training to SME employees and students to help enhance their overall cyber security awareness.

With many industries now in full recovery mode, in addition to providing stable domain name services, HKIRC has been stepping up publicity of its ".hk" and ".香港" domain names to the business community and the public. This is a growth area, as more and more traditional enterprises undergo digital transformation and new start-up companies also enter the Internet market. In this context, HKIRC's active publicity and promotional efforts has seen the number of users of ".hk" and ".香港" domain names continue to grow encouragingly over the past few years. We will continue our work to achieve our mission of promoting the use of the Internet and helping Hong Kong enterprises maintain a leading position in the Internet market.

Smart cities without doubt represent the future of urban development, and making Hong Kong into a leading-edge smart city is something the Government has been vigorously working towards in recent years. Its active efforts to develop the digital economy are enhancing the effectiveness of economic and trade exchanges, while its introduction of increasing numbers of digital government services are benefiting people's livelihoods and assisting them in managing their daily affairs. In this important work, the domain name system managed by HKIRC is an indispensable piece of network infrastructure. To support the sustainable development of Hong Kong as a digital society, HKIRC will continue to make every effort to safeguard the efficient and reliable operation of the domain name system that it oversees.

Building smart cities also involves bridging the digital divide, ensuring equitable access to digital networks for all members of society. HKIRC has all along been committed to promoting digital inclusion with the objective of facilitating universal access to the Internet. To further expand the scope of our digital inclusion efforts by extending our target group to the elderly, from mainly persons with disabilities in the past. HKIRC has encouraged enterprises and organisations to incorporate barrier-free design into the design of their webpages and applications, to ensure that every member of the public can fully participate in and benefit from the benefits of technology. HKIRC is also working with relevant stakeholders to promote barrier-free design and digital inclusion through professional training and support, with the aim of making Hong Kong's digital society fair and full of opportunities for all.

與此同時，HKIRC 深明要達成網絡安全，企業管理、保安系統以至個人層面均要兼顧，才可實踐全面的保障。唯有從個人做起，減少人為錯失出現，避免製造安全漏洞，才能大大減低受攻擊的風險。因此，HKIRC 將繼續在不同層面進行深化教育工作，向中小企員工和學生提供適切的免費培訓，提升整體的網絡安全防衛意識。

HKIRC 除堅守本份，提供穩定的域名服務外，同時亦把握這個百業復甦的契機，加大力度向商界和市民進行宣傳，進一步推廣「.hk」及「.香港」域名的多元價值，致力普及互聯網的應用。隨著傳統企業進行數碼轉型及新成立的初創企業紛紛投入網絡市場，再加上於 HKIRC 積極宣傳和推動下，過去一年「.hk」及「.香港」域名的用戶數字得以增長，實在令人鼓舞，同時亦展示出各界持續對 HKIRC 和「.hk」及「.香港」的支持和信任。HKIRC 將繼續履行推動互聯網普及應用的使命，讓香港企業能夠繼續在網絡市場保持領先優勢。

隨着時代進步，智慧城市絕對是未來發展的大方向，政府近年大力推行建設數字政府，一方面積極發展數字經濟，提升經貿往來的效益，另一方面陸續推出更多惠澤民生的數字政府服務，協助市民處理日常事務。HKIRC 所管理的域名系統是重要數字時代下不可或缺的網絡基建，能配合政府推動電子化的方向。為了確保數字社會能持續發展，HKIRC 將會一如既往保障域名系統能有效和可靠地運作，以實現便民利商的目標。

在全力發展建設智慧城市的同時，我們亦必須正視數碼鴻溝，以令弱勢社群都可以享受數碼網絡帶來的便利。本著促進互聯網普及應用的宗旨，HKIRC 一直致力推動數碼共融，為了進一步加強數碼共融的廣度，共融對象亦會從過往聚焦的殘疾人士擴闊至長者，推動企業和機構在設計網頁和應用程式時加入無障礙設計，確保每個市民也能夠充分參與和受惠於科技帶來的便捷。HKIRC 亦會與相關持份者攜手合作，推動無障礙設計的實踐，提供專業培訓和支持，並積極倡導數碼共融的理念，推動香港成為一個充滿機遇和公平的數字社會。

At the beginning of the year, the Chief Executive stated that this year would be "a year of going all out to bolster the economy, speed up development and proactively improve people's livelihoods." Looking ahead, HKIRC anticipates that with more enterprises setting up in Hong Kong, the demand for ".hk" and ".香港" domain names will increase. We also hope to contribute to the development of Hong Kong as a smart city, enabling businesses and citizens to enjoy more convenient commercial and living environments. To this end, HKIRC will align with the Government's development directions while collaborating with various partners. We will leverage our strengths in internet infrastructure development to benefit the online community, comprehensively promote cyber security, and actively pursue international exchange and cooperation opportunities. HKIRC will continue its efforts to provide robust network systems, ensuring the full development of e-commerce. Additionally, we will dedicate resources to areas such as digital accessibility and cyber security for the benefit of the public.

Finally, I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to my fellow Directors of the Board, as well as colleagues and partners, for their unfailing support through the year. Thanks are also due to all those who have contributed to the success of Hong Kong through the ".hk" and ".香港" domain names. I am confident that this year will once again bring major new opportunities for Hong Kong to shine in its Internet activities. I look forward to working closely with the Government, the industry and our partners, embracing new challenges and grasping new opportunities as we work together to create a safer and more prosperous Internet community.

特首在年初提及今年是「全力拼經濟、加速謀發展、積極惠民生的一年」。展望未來，HKIRC 預期隨著更多的企業來港落戶，香港的「.hk」及「.香港」域名需求會有所增加。同時，期待能為香港發展智慧城市的推進作出貢獻，使企業和市民享受更便利的經商和生活環境。為此 HKIRC 將會配合政府的發展方向時，亦會與不同的合作伙伴攜手互助，在互聯網的建設上發揮所長，為網絡社群作出貢獻，全面推廣網絡安全並積極開展國際交流合作機會。HKIRC 定必繼續致力提供穩健的網絡系統，確保電商能夠全力發展。另外，我們將持續投放資源在數碼無障礙和網絡安全等領域，惠澤民生。

最後，本人衷心感謝董事們、同事和合作夥伴的鼎力支持，以及所有透過「.hk」及「.香港」域名為香港在網絡上發光發亮的用戶，深信在這一年各位也能再次帶來更耀眼的新機遇。在新的一年裡，我們將繼續致力推動互聯網發展，保障網絡安全，與政府、業界和合作伙伴合作，共同應對新挑戰，迎接新機遇，合力開創更安全和繁榮的互聯網時代。