

It seems like only yesterday that we were heralding the start of the IT Functional Constituency in 1998. IT professionals, after struggling for years without a voice to represent their interests, finally had a representative to work on their behalf in the Legislative Council, and for the common goal of turning Hong Kong into a world-class digital city. It was, and remains, a great privilege to serve IT professionals in Hong Kong. In this, my sixth year of service, my enthusiasm has not waned, nor has my drive or commitment in addressing any challenge which arises to ensure that the industry continues to thrive.

Hong Kong is internationally renowned as one of the world's leading digital cities, a distinction that we have earned through years of commitment to innovation, development and continuous improvement. Such acclaim has been earned through the efforts of all stakeholders: from IT professional bodies, to academics to various industries and individuals. They have managed to do so while remaining open to change and to the voices and needs of all IT professionals.

Fighting to serve the interests of my IT constituency and ensuring a fair and competitive business environment top my list of priorities. The controversy surrounding the Information Technology Professional Services Arrangement (ITPSA), which caused much debate, finally forced Government to conduct a review of the entire programme in June 2004. Unfair practices of the Hong Kong Productivity Council have declined significantly. We are now making headway on discussions about how new industries, such as wireless technologies and digital entertainment industries, can be further developed to help local enterprises explore new business opportunities and improve the employment prospects of the local ICT sector.

Promoting IT to every business and in every community has been another focus of my work over the past six years. For the first time ever, the digital divide issue came to light in the legislature, the consequences of which have resulted in many information gaps in society being eradicated. Internet penetration in households has increased from less than 30% in 1998 to 60% in 2003. Over 50% of businesses have adopted some form of eBusiness. Citizens are now able to access up to 90% of all public services through an eOption. All of these achievements have facilitated the sustainable growth of our ICT industry.

With regards to human resources in the IT sector, we continue to work to promote excellence for all. We are well on the way towards establishing a centralised IT accreditation system that will raise the status of our IT professionals. Having successfully fought for resources to expand IT education and training, we now have a competent IT workforce capable of managing rapidly emerging developments and technologies in the ICT sector. We now face new challenges. These will require that we take IT education to the next level, and with it promote eLearning as a life-long passion. I have submitted my own views to Government on the future direction that IT in education should take, and I remain committed to fighting for more public investment to make this a reality.

Over the past six years, we have seen many other highlights take place in the IT sector, such as the launch of the eCert, Certification Authorities and the Smart HKID Card project. The Electronic Transactions Ordinance was introduced in 2000 to set out a secure and predictable framework for electronic transactions. The Copyright Ordinance was amended to provide appropriate protection of intellectual property rights. An Information Infrastructure Advisory Committee (IIAC) was formed in September 1998 to oversee and foster the overall development of our ICT regime. With the continuous effort of the industry, we also won our fight against the enactment of the National Security (Legislative Provisions) Bill to safeguard our freedom of speech.

This report provides more details on these accomplishments, as well as highlights some of our many other achievements. Because of your commitment, your full support and confidence in me, we have been able to push for many policy changes that not only benefit all IT professionals, but also all Hong Kong citizens by allowing us all to become more productive and prosperous. I am extremely proud to have been involved with the industry during this exciting time and I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank all members of the IT industry for their support over the past six years.



Sin Chung Kai

Legislative Councillor (IT)

July 2004

Foreword | 前言



一切彷彿如昨日。資訊科技界以往一直欠缺獨立的聲音反映意見。但隨著一九九八年資訊科技功能組別在立法會內正式誕生，議會內終於有為業界爭取權益、為業界服務的代表，與業界攜手，帶領香港邁向國際級數碼城市。我很榮幸獲得信任，有機會服務同業。過去六年，我自始至終保持著最初的熱誠、衝勁和投入，在無數影響業界的決策和重要事項上，表露無遺。

香港是國際知名的數碼城市。只有真誠地投入創意、發展和持續地進步，才能令它茁壯成長，邁向高峰。這不單單是個人力量所能成就，與專業團體、學術界、業界合作無間，時刻與資訊科技專業人士保持緊密聯繫，聽取他們的意見，是達成成功，締結豐碩成果的祕訣。

身為業界在立法會的代表，為業界爭取權益和公平的營商環境，是責無旁貸。「資訊科技專業服務計劃」的安排掀起激烈的爭拗，已成功促使政府關注此事，並在二零零四年就計劃展開檢討工作。香港生產力促進局與業界不公平競爭的情況已有改善。我們未來的工作，就是要討論如何開拓新的行業，例如無線科技和數碼娛樂，協助本地業界開創新的商機，和改善就業情況。

推動社會各界和其他行業運用資訊科技，是我過去六年來的另一項重要工作。隨著數碼隔膜問題獲立法會關注，社會上的資訊隔膜得以逐漸改善。住戶的互聯網滲透率由一九九八年的三成增至二零零三年的六成；超過五成的企業使用不同形式的電子商貿。市民也亦可以透過電子方式，使用超過九成的公共服務。這些成就均有利於本港資訊及通訊科技業穩步成長。

此外，我們力求提升資訊科技業的人力質素，現正朝著建立統一「資訊科技專業認證制度」的方向而進發，以提升業界的專業地位。香港擁有一群能幹、足以應付資訊科技日新月異、轉變迅猛的業界精英，實有賴我們成功游說政府，投放更多資源在資訊科技教育及培訓工作。我們刻下面臨的挑戰，是如何發展下一階段的資訊科技教育，推廣網上教學，鼓勵市民終身學習。我已向政府提交對未來資訊科技教育發展方向的意見，並會繼續為此爭取更多的資源。

過去六年我們也見證不少的工作成果，例如電子證書及核證機關投入運作，以至落實換領智能身份證的計劃。《電子交易條例》已於二零零零年初生效，為電子交易訂立安全穩靠的規管架構；《版權條例》已獲得修訂，更適切和更有效保障知識產權。業界毫不間斷的努力，促使資訊基建諮詢委員會於一九九八年九月成立，統籌和推動資訊及通訊科技領域內的整體發展。我們也成功地阻止《國家安全(立法條文)條例草案》通過，使言論自由得以保障。

這份工作報告會闡述更多有關的工作成果。因著你的參與、支持與信任，我們促使政府改善多項政策，不但資訊科技界的專業人士能從中獲益，市民也因而享有更具效率和更富足的生活。能夠參與其中，創造成果，我感到驕傲，並謹此感謝業界成員在這段時期的鼎力支持。

單仲偕

立法會議員(資訊科技界)

單仲偕 謹啟

二零零四年七月