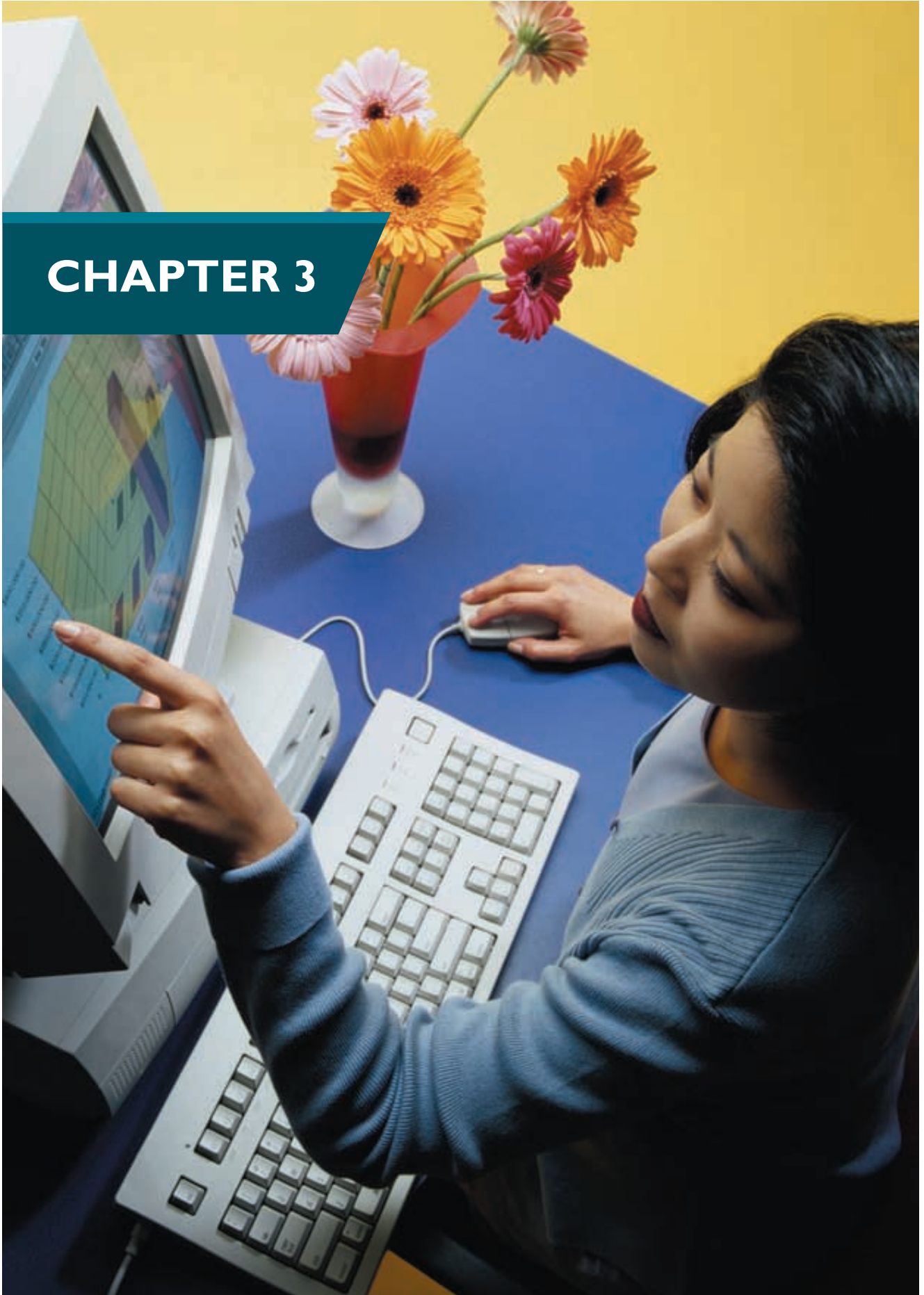


CHAPTER 3





CHAPTER 3 - STRIVING FOR EXCELLENCE

Our universities have a key role to play in supplying quality IT manpower in support of our vision to develop as a leading digital city. It is mainly these institutions which inject new blood into the IT workforce. The urge to supply quality IT manpower has driven us to strive for excellence in developing training and research opportunities for IT personnel in our universities. But the universities are not aiming for such excellence in isolation. Already there are many co-operative ventures with the IT industry. This approach serves to best ensure that the activities cater for the needs of the market. Numerous successes are on record, and they underpin Hong Kong's position as a leading digital city.

Striving for excellence through partnership with industry

Authorized Academic Java Campus

The University of Hong Kong and Sun Microsystems have jointly run Asia's first-ever Authorized Academic Java Campus (AAJC) programme to teach, research and develop Java technologies. The AAJC programme is designed to deliver certified Java technologies training to students of higher education. It also provides consultation services to the industry, thus making Java technologies available to corporations through internship and project collaboration. The University campus has developed its own Sun training center which excels in the use of Java technologies and drives the incorporation of Java courseware into the University's curriculum. Students are able to work with local businesses on **Java technologies pilot projects** and can gain hands-on, real-world experience in the use of Java technologies.





Internet-Centric Excellence Centre

The **University of Hong Kong** has collaborated with **Oracle** and **Sun Microsystems** to operate the Internet-Centric Excellence Centre which acts as a focal point for innovation as well as applied research and training in Internet computing and e-commerce. It provides an Internet computing environment for the conversion of commercial possibilities into **real business solutions** using Internet technology.

INRIA-HKU Joint Research Centre

The University of Hong Kong has taken active steps to establish a student exchange partnership with the National Institute for Research in Computer Science and Control (INRIA) of France. Research at INRIA focuses on the field of information and communications technologies. The **HKU** and **INRIA** have already signed a **Memorandum of Understanding** to develop a joint research centre with co-operation programmes to create synergies in research and development work in information and communications technologies.

CUHK – Elec & Eltek Technology Center 香港中文大學 - 依利安達科技中心



CUHK-Elec & Eltek Technology Centre

The Chinese University of Hong Kong and the Elec & Eltek Group have jointly founded the CUHK – Elec & Eltek Technology Centre which focuses on the development of Business to Business (B2B) **e-commerce** trading platform. It plays an important role in helping **SMEs** to adopt e-commerce to enhance their competitiveness.

The Hong Kong CyberU

The Hong Kong CyberU is an advanced learning institution on the Internet co-founded by the Hong Kong Polytechnic University and the Pacific Century Cyberworks (PCCW). It integrates the expertise of the University in research, consulting and pedagogical development with PCCW's telecommunications and broadband capabilities to create the **first Hong Kong-based virtual university**. It offers Internet courses to students from Hong Kong, Mainland China, South-East Asia and other parts of the world who have access to broadband. These courses lead to academic qualifications awarded by the University, including degree and professional awards through part-time and online web-based studies. This initiative provides a truly multi-media enabled, interactive technology platform which allows students to learn on the basis of a self-directed and self-paced approach, complemented by online guidance.



City University of Hong Kong

The City University of Hong Kong has established strategic alliance with major international IT corporations as well as educational institutions including **Computer Associates, Cisco, Oracle** and the Carnegie Technology Education (CTE) of the **Carnegie Mellon University** which excels in software engineering education. The CTE partnership allows students to have "the best of both worlds", whereby a world-renowned overseas university creates the curriculum, designs teaching material and sets assessment, and the local university provides teaching staff to deliver the knowledge required for students in the local environment in Hong Kong.

Other Co-operative Initiatives with the industry

Recently, **Microsoft** has pledged a contribution of **HK\$20 million (US\$2.6 million)** to the University of Hong Kong, the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, the City University of Hong Kong and the Hong Kong Polytechnic University. The donation is in support of a wide range of education and social programmes, including the provision of new training laboratories, support for local software development, and expansion of training programmes for teachers, etc. The programmes will provide students and the related university faculties with access to training in the most advanced technologies. In addition, Microsoft certification programmes will be offered at some of the universities.

Government Support and Industry Recognition

The Government has set up an **Innovation and Technology Fund** in 1999 with capital injection of **HK\$5 billion (US\$640 million)** to provide funding support to projects which are innovative and can contribute to the technological upgrading of Hong Kong. The universities can benefit from this funding source for carrying out IT research and development. The Government also supports activities such as the IT Excellence Awards held by the IT industry to promote and recognise the drive for excellence in the IT field.



IT Talent at work

There are numerous examples which can **showcase** the drive for excellence by our IT talent at work. All these have helped strengthen Hong Kong's status as a leading digital city. Some salient examples are –

TeleEye

TeleEye is a technological company established by the City University of Hong Kong and a group of talented researchers. It is mainly engaged in the development, marketing and sale of innovative products that utilise **state-of-the-art signal processing technologies**. The venture has been successfully spun off from the University to become a leading supplier in the world of remote visual management systems with extensive applications in various industries. It has also become successfully listed on the Growth Enterprise Market of the Stock Exchange of Hong Kong.

Cryptographic applications

The University of Hong Kong has established the Centre for Information Security and Cryptography, with Government funding support, to conduct research in **cryptographic technologies**. It has successfully developed a strong cryptographic software which has been bundled with the digital certificate issued by the Hongkong Post to provide electronic authentication services in **e-commerce** transactions. The Centre has subsequently spun off a part of its work as a commercial operation, and has attracted the support of venture capitalists. The spin-off operation provides the commercial market with technologies that address the basic concerns of authenticity, integrity, confidentiality and non-repudiation in electronic transactions.





iMBA of City University of Hong Kong

The interactive Master of Business Administration (iMBA) programme of the City University of Hong Kong has recently been ranked by Asiaweek as **Asia's best distance MBA programme**. The iMBA is the first local academic programme to be delivered through broadband Internet services. The programme also includes video lectures and students can have access to the University's online library and databases as well as benefit from on-call technical advice.

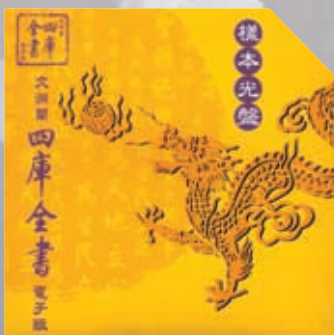


E-Library – The Open University of Hong Kong

The E-library project of the Open University of Hong Kong was the joint **winner** in the education category of the **"Stockholm Challenge Award" 2000** jointly organised by the City Government of Stockholm and the European Commission, beating other finalists from North America, Europe, Australia, and Africa. The project is a structural innovation in the development of distance education through a "library without walls". It now contains electronic files equivalent to 500,000 volumes of printed resources, all of which can be readily accessed through the Internet.

Digital Wen Yuan Ge Si Ku Quan Shu (文淵閣四庫全書)

The Chinese University Press and its commercial partner have jointly published the electronic version of Wen Yuan Ge Si Ku Quan Shu. The publication, including 3,460 words of Classic (jing經), History (shi史), Philosophy (zi子) and Belles-letters (ji集), contains around 800 million



Chinese characters with the aim to bringing together all the works known at the time which were considered worthy of preservation. The **electronic Si Ku Quan Shu (四庫全書)** was the first one in the world to adopt the ISO 10646 standard for the coding of Chinese characters.