Advisory Committee on
Code of Practice for Recognized Certification Authorities (ACCOP)

Minutes of the 12th Meeting held
on 23 May 2012 at 2:30 p.m.
in Conference Room, 15/F, Wanchai Tower,
Office of the Government Chief Information Officer (OGCIO)

Present

Mr. Daniel LAI, B.B.S., J.P.	Government Chief Information Officer, OGCIO (Chairman)
Mr. Andrew CHENG	Member
Ms. Haily CHOW	Member
Ms. Selene HO	Representative of Mr. Steve ONG
Ir. Dr. Lucas HUI	Member
Ms. Pamela KU	Member
Mr. Allen LEE	Representative of Mr. Peter YAN
Mr. Winston LEONG	Member
Ms. Amy NG	Member
Ir. Dr. Hon. Samson TAM, J.P.	Member
Mr. Eldon YEUNG	Member

Absent with Apologies

Ms. Conser LEE	Member
Mr. Steve ONG	Member
Mr. Peter YAN	Member

In Attendance

Ms. Joey LAM, J.P.	Deputy Government Chief Information Officer (Policy and Customer Service), OGCIO

Ms. Joyce MOK	Assistant Government Chief Information Officer (Digital Economy Facilitation), OGCIO
Mr. Owen WONG	Chief Systems Manager (Digital Economy Facilitation), OGCIO
Mr. TH LEE	Senior Systems Manager (Digital Economy Facilitation), OGCIO
Mr. Jeffrey FUNG	Senior Systems Manager (Digital Economy Facilitation), OGCIO
Mr. Nicky YICK	Systems Manager (Digital Economy Facilitation), OGCIO (Secretary)
Mr. Dennis NG	Systems Manager (Digital Economy Facilitation), OGCIO
Ms. Eva CHAN	Certizen Limited
Mr. Man HO	Certizen Limited
Mr. Harry WONG	Digi-Sign Certification Services Limited
Mr. William GEE	PricewaterhouseCoopers
Mr. Derek LAM	PricewaterhouseCoopers
Mr. Gordon SZE TU	Hong Kong Public Key Infrastructure Forum Limited

Introductory Remarks

The Chairman welcomed **Members** to the meeting.

Agenda Item 1 – Confirmation of Minutes of the Last Meeting

2. The minutes of the 11th ACCOP meeting were confirmed without amendment.

Agenda Item 2 – Presentation on the Consultancy Study for a Proposed Framework to Enable the Mutual Recognition of Electronic Signature Certificates issued by HKSAR and the Mainland of China

3. **Ms. Joyce MOK** briefed **Members** on the background and progress of the mutual recognition of electronic signature certificates issued by Hong Kong and Guangdong (MR Scheme) and invited **Mr. Derek LAM** to give a presentation on the way forward.

4. **Mr. LAM** introduced the "Arrangement for Mutual Recognition of Electronic Signature Certificates issued by Hong Kong and Guangdong"《粵港兩地電子簽名證書互認辦法》(the Arrangement) and the common Certificate Policy《粵港電子簽名證書互認證書策略》(Common CP) developed for the Arrangement, and briefed **Members** on the implications on the recognized certification authorities (RCA). The necessary amendments to the Code of Practice for Recognized Certification Authorities (COP) and the Guidance Note on Compliance Assessment of Certification Authorities (Guidance Note) to address the requirements of the MR Scheme were discussed.

5. **The Chairman** said that the Arrangement shall be written in Chinese while the Common CP shall be written in Chinese and English languages and the Chinese version shall prevail in case of doubt. In response to a **Member's** enquiry, **the Chairman** responded that the assessment report to be submitted by RCA in Hong Kong under the MR Scheme could be in English.

6. **Mr. William GEE** pointed out that the proposed amendments to the COP and the Guidance Note might necessitate changes to the Hong Kong Institute of Certified Public Accountants (HKICPA)'s Practice Note 870 (The Assessments of Certification Authorities Under the Electronic Transactions Ordinance) (PN870). **Ms. Selene HO** responded that HKICPA would study this.

Agenda Item 3 – Proposed Amendment to the Code of Practice and Guidance Note regarding Mutual Recognition of Electronic Signature Certificates Issued by Hong Kong and Guangdong (ACCOP Paper No. 1/2012)

7. **Mr. Owen WONG** briefed **Members** on the proposed amendments to the COP and the Guidance Note as outlined in the ACCOP Paper No. 1/2012. **Members** suggested the following textual refinement to the proposed amendments:

i. Capitalize the first letter of "Arrangement for Mutual Recognition of Electronic Signature Certificates Issued by Hong Kong and Guangdong" in paragraph 2.1;

ii. Revise "agreed between the recognized CA and the subscriber" to "specified in the CPS" in paragraph 6.15 to reflect the daily operation; and

iii. Revise "section" to "paragraph" in paragraphs 12.1(d) and 13.1(d).

8. **The Chairman** suggested and **Members** agreed that the proposed amendments together with the textual refinement to the COP and the Guidance Note be adopted. **The Chairman** informed that the amended COP would be published in Gazette in due course.

[Post-meeting Note: The amended COP incorporated with **Members'** comments had been circulated to **Members** for information after the meeting.]

Agenda Item 4 – Update on Recognized Certification Authorities' Business Development

9. **Ms. Amy NG** updated **Members** that Hongkong Post Certification Authority (HKPCA) had appointed Certizen Limited as the outsourcing operator of HKPCA's e-Cert services from 1 April 2012 for a period of six years and invited **Mr. Man HO** of Certizen Limited to give a presentation.

10. **Mr. HO** briefed **Members** about HKPCA's new promotional offer for e-Cert (Encipherment), its plan of issuance of e-Certs with 2048-bit RSA key length and its experience in a pilot project for the mutual recognition of electronic signature certificates issued by HKPCA and Guang Dong Certificate Authority.

11. **Mr. Andrew CHENG** shared with **Members** about Digi-Sign's issuance of ID-Certs with 2048-bit RSA key length, new projects in Hong Kong and overseas, the challenges of the latest security threats, the use of one-time-password (OTP) and the emerging mobile platforms for electronic transactions. **Members** shared that the existing use of OTP in the banking industry was generally based on contract terms agreed between the issuing bank and its customers. **The Chairman** noted that the PKI technology behind digital certificate was widely supported by the IT industry as the prevailing technology to address the stringent requirements of secure electronic transactions and in particular, for non-repudiation.

12. In response to **Mr. CHENG's** comment that there might be business need not to publish recognized certificates in a publicly accessible repository, **the Chairman** noted and suggested to take this into consideration as necessary.

Agenda Item 5 – Any Other Business

13. **Ms. MOK** updated **Members** that the promotional activities for launching the MR Scheme were scheduled for the second half of 2012.

14. There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 3:45 p.m.

Date of Next Meeting

15. The date of the next meeting would be scheduled in due course.

Secretariat of the ACCOP
Office of the Government Chief Information Officer
May 2012