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Office of the Government Chief Information officer  
Commerce, Industry and Technology Bureau  
2/F Murray Building  
Garden Road  
Hong Kong  
Attention: Mr. Louis Leung  
(By mail and Fax: 2511 1458)

Dear Mr. Leung,

**Comments in Response to the Public Consultation on 2007 Digital 21 Strategy**

Hong Kong Internet Registration Corporation Limited (HKIRC) is a non-profit member-based organization designated by the HKSAR Government to administer the registration of '.hk' domain names for the Hong Kong community since 2001.

The vision of the 2007 Digital 21 Strategy is advancing the achievements made so far and seizing new opportunities to further strengthen Hong Kong's position as a world digital city. Overall we think the Strategy should mention '.hk' as a key building block of the ICT infrastructure and include '.hk' as part of the overall branding and promotion of the whole Digital 21 effort.

Our view is that, as the ICT infrastructure is still evolving (e.g. merging of broadcasting and telecommunications, IPv6 adoption, transition of 3G to 4G), the success of the 2007 Digital 21 Strategy still relies on how good we can continue to upgrade our infrastructure and make use of its components effectively.

In particular, we would like to draw Government's attention on how the '.hk' domain name system can contribute to the success of some of the action areas of this Strategy as follows.

1. Promoting advanced technology and innovation

1.1 The Strategy recognizes the important of IPv6 in the development of the Next-

generation Internet. The effective allocation of IPv6 addresses to local companies, organisations and individuals is a key success factor in this initiative. At the moment, IPv4 addresses are allocated to local entities by APNIC (Asia-Pacific Network Information Centre) based in Brisbane, Australia. When it comes to allocation of IPv6 addresses, it will be quite inconvenient for our local entities to go to APNIC for every application. HKIRC, with its present role in allocation of '.hk' domain names, is well positioned both technologically and administratively to take up the role of a "National Internet Registry" (NIR) to allocate IPv6 addresses efficiently for the local community. With a local-based non-profit body such as HKIRC to perform such role, the Government will indirectly encourage the local community to try out and become early adopters of IPv6 and speed up the development of the next-generation Internet in Hong Kong.

## 2. Enabling the next generation of public services

- 2.1 The Government is committed to the e-government initiative whereby more public services will be put online and ICT-enabled hence contributing to an improved business and living environment. HKIRC invites the Government to make use of the '.hk' domain names as one of the foundation components to make this a reality. '.hk', with its distinctive "Hong Kong" brand and strong local presence, can be a strong enabler for the implementation of fully online, fully integrated and personalised public services and commercial services alike.

## 3. Building an inclusive, knowledge-based society

The Government is keen to upgrade SME capabilities and competitiveness through the use of ICT in their daily business. HKIRC is keen to cooperate with the Government, the local ISPs and web hosting companies in promoting the use of ICT and in particular the adoption of '.hk' domain names by the local SMEs. HKIRC believes that only through use of fundamental components such as '.hk' domain names, despite on a trial basis or on a small scale, will real adoption by the SME community start to happen.

Yours sincerely



Jonathan Shea

Chief Executive Officer

Hong Kong Internet Registration Corporation Limited (HKIRC)

Christopher To, Chairman of HKIRC