



A Time to Remember and a Time to Share



Alan Wong, Director, Information Technology Services Department, The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region



Ribbon cutting at the opening ceremony: from left to right, Dr David Cheung, Chairperson of the Programme Committee for HKICC2003; Mr Daniel Lai, JP, President of HKCS; Mr Francis Ho, JP, Permanent Secretary for Commerce, Industry and Technology; Mr Alan Wong, JP, Chairperson of the Organizing Committee for HKICC2003; and Mr Robert lau, Secretary General for Asia Information Communications Technology Confederation (AIC)

The experiences gained over the past 11 months were no doubt invaluable and rewarding to me as the chairperson of the Organizing Committee (OC) of the Hong Kong International Computer Conference 2003 (HKICC2003).

When I was invited to be the chairperson of the OC of the 2003 conference in November 2002, I accepted it without hesitation, thinking that it would be a good opportunity for me to do something to highlight the contribution of IT to the

transformation and prosperity of the local IT industry and the community at large. This was important particularly when Hong Kong was experiencing an economic downturn with very weak investment in recent years.

The HKICC had been organized annually by the HKCS for the past 25 years with great success. I was confident that the 2003 conference should be no exception. I expected everything was going to be fine – plain sailing. But expectation and reality are

Editor's Message

We do welcome interesting and informative articles related to Information Technology. For any submission of articles, please feel free to send to hkcs@hkcs.org.hk

The editor / publisher reserves the right to edit submitted articles for space and style.

For any further inquiries, please do not hesitate to contact HKCS office at 2834 2228.

In view of the upcoming holidays in the next couple of months, please respect the cut-off dates for articles submission, else the newsletters will not be printed and delivered on time.

Many thanks for your cooperation!

Issue	Cut-off Date
Dec 2003	5th Dec 2003
Jan 2004	2nd Jan 2004

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often not the same. Like riding on a roller-coaster train, the feelings of ups and downs overwhelmed me throughout the months during which the conference was being planned out.

At the beginning, everything seemed to go quite smoothly: forming the and the Programme Committee (PO) in December 2002, deciding to adopt the theme **“IT – Impetus to Economic Prosperity”** for the conference in January 2003, issuing invitations to speakers and sponsors in February etc.

However, circumstances went in a sinister direction since late March. SARS descended on Hong Kong quietly and struck the city cruelly and relentlessly, claiming hundreds of lives and paralysing the economy. Fear and anxiety permeated every

street and building, not only Hong Kong but our neighbours as well. The OC and PC met monthly all the same, hoping that the lethal virus would leave us before the summer holidays.

At one time, we were so desperate that we considered the alternative of cancelling the conference if the SARS epidemic continued to be with us. We feared that the overseas speakers, delegates and participants might not dare to come. Without their participation, the event would be seriously eclipsed given its international coverage and long standing reputation.

On the other hand, sponsorship was substantially below target because the IT companies were hard hit by the loss of business and heavy budget cuts as a result of poor

business and pessimistic outlook of the economy. It would be extremely difficult if not impossible to solicit sufficient funding, which amounted to about HK\$1.5 million, to launch the event. That was the worst moment I had experienced in the period.

Fortunately, towards mid-June the SARS epidemic was seemingly under control although the pundits warned that it might appear again later in the year. The HKSAR Government began to find ways to revive and revitalize the economy. Simultaneously, we started to intensify our promotion campaign with a view to soliciting more sponsorship and selling more tickets. But these were easier said than done because the economy was still languid.

To prepare for the worse, I had persuaded the Communications and Technology Branch to meet any shortfall encountered by the HKCS in organizing the event, of course, up to a finite amount. We spared no effort in our fund raising drive to ensure that we would use as little public funding as possible for the conference.

On 24 and 25 September, the



Performance of Chinese orchestra by students from St Paul's Convent School at the Opening Ceremony

conference had been held as scheduled and turned out to be a great success in terms of both participation rate and the quality of speeches/presentations. It offered an excellent opportunity for networking and interaction among the IT professionals, business executives, academics and government officials and delegates. Some of them came from the Mainland and countries in Asia like India, Japan and Korea. More than 30 renowned speakers from the government, the industry and the academia locally and overseas had come to share their views and experiences with the participants. The post-conference visits to the Cyberport, Science Park, Hong Kong Jockey Club and Centre for E-Commerce Infrastructure Development (University of Hong Kong) were also well received.

Today, it is a great relief to me, having witnessed the resounding success of a truly international event.

Once again, I would like to take the opportunity to express my sincere gratitude to members of the OC, the PC, the HKCS and ITSD for their cooperation and dedication in organizing the conference. My special thanks also go to the prominent leaders of the IT industry and the academia, the speakers and panellists for their valuable contribution, and to all sponsors for their generous support, without whose support the conference would not have been so successful.

It is our common desire to see the revitalization of the Hong Kong economy and sustained growth, after several years of recession. IT will continue to play an instrumental role in this process through enhancing the productivity and efficiency of enterprises. It will also raise the quality of life.

I am very grateful to the HKCS for giving me the opportunity to plan and implement the HKICC2003. I look forward to participating on the next occasion in 2004 and sincerely wish the organizers good luck!



Delegates at the meeting

New Chapter Opens in Hong Kong

HKICC2003 and AIC Premier set fresh direction for Asia ICT

Robert Iau, Secretary General of the Asia Information Communications Technology Confederation (AIC)



Mr Daniel Lai (front row, 2nd from left) was elected to be the first president of AIC

When the Governing Council of the Asia ICT Confederation (AIC) met in Singapore in November 2002, a feeling of gloom pervaded the gathering.

The horrendous and mindless conflagration in the Island of the Gods, Bali, had taken place scant weeks before. The first AGAMES of AIC scheduled to be held in Indonesia in November 2002 had to be cancelled as the fall out from this incident roiled the country.

AIC was a fledgling organization having just emerged into the light of day 6 months ago also in Bali. It had to face many post-natal complications. Optimism was clearly in short supply.

That was until George the Dragon Slayer from Hong Kong took the lead

and declared that the Hong Kong International Computer Conference (HKICC) planned for September 2003 would be held jointly with the First AIC Premier Convention. It would be the coming out party for AIC.

The meeting came alive. Enthusiasm blossomed, ideas flowed and excitement began to build to fever pitch. Additional activities were suggested and everyone figuratively rolled up their sleeves and got going. The AIC family began to pull together. Gloom and doom were left behind.

Then SARS hit! The shock was palpable. The double whammy! Lesser beings would have abandoned the intended enterprise and at least one known party did and with great alacrity.

But HKICS and AIC were made of sterner stuff! They dug in, hunkered down and kept going without respite banking on the hope that the vile visitation of SARS would soon pass. When the cloud did indeed dissipate they were ready.

The Joint HKICC2003 and AIC Premier Convention took on the truly remarkable Spirit of Revival and Renewal. The Theme chosen for the Event said it all: **“IT – Impetus for Economic Prosperity”**.

In one swift and masterful stroke the Event had riveted the attention of Asia ICT on what represents the true and undeniable value of the technology to the awakening behemoth that is Asia.

Unlike other international conferences where technology had maintained centre stage driven largely by teeming ranks of supporters for *ars gratia artis*, the Hong Kong event had raised the banner of “It’s Payback Time”.

“Payback time” to improve national economies, quality of life and provide a brighter future for the peoples; “payback time” to bridge the knowledge gap between countries and within countries; and “payback time” to effectively remove any

tendency towards marginalization of segments of society in the new ICT Age.

The HKICC2003 and AIC Premier Convention kicked off at the Hong Kong Exhibition and Convention Centre (HKCEC) in the morning of 24 September 2003.

The choice of HKCEC for the event could not have been more befitting of the occasion. HKCEC was built to celebrate the righting of a historical aberration that took place more than a century ago and the Joint HKICC2003 and AIC Premier

Convention marking a fresh direction for Asian ICT was similarly launched in its historic halls.

Officiating at the Opening Ceremony was the Guest of Honour Mr Francis Ho, JP, the Permanent Secretary for Commerce, Industry and Technology. His message was distinctly upbeat and emphasized the opportunities that were emerging over the horizon for ICT enterprises and the increasingly sophisticated applications that would form the backbone of growth engines for Hong Kong and other Asian

economies. He also emphasized the importance of well trained quality human resources with current and upgraded skills that would be needed to support continued growth.

Other speakers who shared the stage with Mr Ho were Mr Daniel Lai, JP, President of the HKCS and President of AIC; Mr Alan Wong, JP, the Chairman of the Organizing Committee for HKICC2003 and AIC Premier Convention; Dr David Cheung, Chairman of the Programme Committee; and Mr Robert Lau the Secretary General of AIC.

A phalanx of top Keynote Speakers and other speakers took over the



Speakers at the AIC Premier Convention

proceedings for the next two days. It was truly a rich and inspiring experience.

The two day session presented a total of 37 Keynote, Plenary, Session and Panel Speakers. They spoke on subjects ranging from optimal technology deployment in businesses, in e-logistics, supply chain, business innovation and re-modelling, education and e-learning, re-making Governments through e-Government among others. They also spoke on societal issues relating to the potential of women in the ICT workforce and the exciting prospects in China.

The underlying thrust that ICT is a key factor for economic prosperity could not be missed. What was even more remarkable was the almost total absence of any “talking down” to the audience as likely to happen in a lecture environment. The presentations made by the speakers were drawn from the vast reservoirs of actual live experiences, of successes and failures. They were invaluable.

The AIC ASTRADE Business Round Table on e-Government also took place concurrently. This was the first occasion that such a Business Round Table (BRT) was held with regional Lead Speakers presenting the e-Government scenarios in their respective countries and the potential

for outsourcing business partnerships.

Despite a cautious start, the proceedings of the BRT became increasingly robust as the day wore on. This was no business social reception. It was more like a business negotiation session. The barriers came down and doors and windows opened. Participants declared themselves more than satisfied.

It might be appropriate to refer to the Pre-Opening Reception at the Hong Kong Football Club to wind up this report. The gathering began in

a somewhat ambivalent mood. The impromptu speeches, light hearted and delivered with great wit often made references to the onslaught of SARS and the impact it had on the economies in Asia. It was clearly an experience not to be easily forgotten.

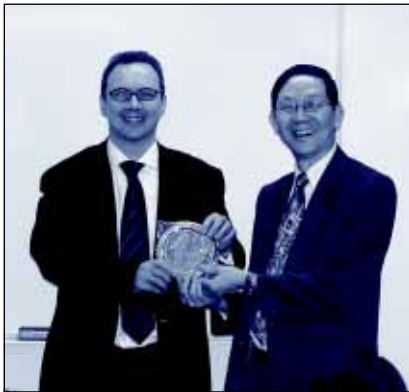
But the conviviality of the evening was unsurpassed. The liberal lashings of booze probably helped. It was a great way to say “We have done it! Roll on HKICC2003 and AIC Premier!”

AND MAN! DID IT ROLL!!



Gathering of the Governing Council

ISSG Seminar on "Dealing with IT Auditors and Implementing Audit and Security Recommendations"



Mr Roy Ko (right) presenting souvenir to Mr Derek Johnson

The seminar was held on 23 October 2003 at 6:30 pm in the lecture room at Hong Kong Polytechnic University. Around 60 people had enrolled for

the event. The room was filled with members and non-members from different industries.

Secretary of ISSG, Mr Roy Ko gave the welcome address and the introduction of the speaker.

The seminar was delivered by Mr Derek Johnson, senior consultant of Security and Audit Solutions. Mr Johnson has experience both as an internal and external auditor. In the talk, fundamental concepts of IT auditing were reviewed. Live examples from audit report were

used to discuss the views from the auditor and the possible responses from management. Useful tactics and solutions were explained. Audiences raised questions that enhanced the discussion. The seminar provided useful information on IT auditing and included practical hand-on experiences which we may not find in other similar seminars.

Mr Ko also presented a souvenir to Mr Johnson as a token of appreciation for delivering the talk to us which concluded the seminar.

New eXtensible Markup Language Specialist Group (XMLSG) Executive Committee

The Society is pleased to announce that the individuals were elected as Executive Committee members for 2003-2005 during the Inaugural General Meeting:

Mr Alvin Tsang	Chairperson
Mr Thomas Lee	Vice-Chairperson
Mr K. K. Suen	Vice-Chairperson
Mr Tony Lau	Treasurer
Mr Allen Lee	Secretary
Mr David Walker	Website Coordinator
Mr Paul Kwan	Public Relation Coordinator
Mr Lionel Louie	Programme Planning Coordinator
Dr Clarence Lui	Executive Committee Member

When there is a will, there is a way...

A "Rebirth" story of an IT veteran

Edith Mok, Secretary of the HKCS eBizSG

My 32 years of IT experience was brought to a halt when I had a massive stroke 6 years ago. It was a challenge to suddenly change from a very active IT leadership role to a wheel-chaired bound person with speaking, thinking, memory and physical movement impaired. It was a disappointment for me as well as for my friends.

Considering the 32 years, my career development was progressing well with adequate diversity. I was engaged in technical positions for 15 years and then in various IT management leadership roles for 17 years. I witnessed the complete cycle of country operations, regionalization and globalization (using IT as enabler) of The Dow Chemical Company in the 1980s and 1990s while I was working there for 22 years. I took up the IT leadership position for Pacific Area in 1983 and transformed country operations into regional common systems, building the base for global systems. The regional and global infrastructure was progressively constructed as the systems were built.

In the 1990s, I worked in Hong Kong Polytechnic University as the Director of ITS, AT&T Asia Pacific as CIO, NCR Asia Pacific as Vice President of Information Systems, and lastly as Director of IT in the Hong Kong

Jockey Club when I had the stroke. Over the years, many bright and young IT stars were born. I am pleased that some of them are now Chairmen and CEOs of the GEM companies, while some are holding significant positions in local and international reputable firms.

The transition from a CIO and IT Director to an almost non-functional patient was very difficult. But I had been very fortunate. After 6 years of rehabilitation, I had slowly regained 80% of speaking, memory, and thinking (logical, reasoning, and analytical) power even though I am still a hemiplegia (right side paralysis). It is hardly noticeable if I sat down; but once I started moving, people will notice that I have right side weakness. I consider a blessing that the rehabilitation actually worked quite well on me. Would you believe that it took me 4 hours to compose a half-page script 9 months after the stroke?

I was not a person who would give up easily under most circumstances. To test myself, I rejoined the DBA (Doctor of Business Administration) class the second year after the stroke. The learning environment stimulated the activities in my brain and retrained the other dormant cells to activate. It was with this belief that I was motivated to stay in class as a

quiet and non-productive student. It took me more than twice the effort to finish the assignments as I have only a half-brain and limited movement.

I decided to participate in the HKCS e-Business SIG in the third year after the stroke. I volunteered to be the Secretary because I could not speak but I could write the minutes slowly at home. My thinking power was returning as I progressed along. In the same year (2000), I was offered a part-time consultants job in an e-Commerce company (Tradelink). I worked there for a year, implementing an internal cross-functional project within budget and on schedule. Even though I barely spoke, I was communicating with a lot of the users and the project group via e-mail frequently. My speaking power returned 50% after I had worked for a year.

At the end of 2001, I was asked to advise and give consultation on a computerization project for the Rehabus with the Hong Kong Society for Rehabilitation. It was the second try of this project (the first time was 1997, but the project was abandoned). With cooperation from the Outsourced Application Development Provider and a cohesive Rehabus Implementation Team, the project was implemented 6 months late because the users were not ready for a big-bang approach, therefore a phased approach was taken. Ultimately, it was successful because

a more cautious approach was adopted. In 2002, I was asked to chair the ISO-9001 Certification Project in Rehabus. The project involved process definition and simplification. Many process training was given to the Rehabus staff. The project was completed on time for the Rehabus 25th anniversary in 2003. My thinking and speaking power was 70% recovered after these 2 projects were completed.

There were 2 major projects for me in 2003 - the Braincare Project and the completion of the DBA (Doctor of Business Administration). The Braincare Project consists of a Hotline Centre and a Website Service for the Brain Injured Stroke - Brain Tumour patients and caretakers. This project is supported by about 120 volunteers; inclusive of medical, rehabilitation, social workers, IT, and other professionals and amateurs. The pilot run started in June and has proven its value.

The largest project is the completion of the thesis for the DBA, a piece of work that I re-commenced 5 years ago. It is not easy for me, as I have to re-acquaint myself with common sense and acquire new knowledge through literature review and research. Now it is all behind me, as I have gone through the viva successfully in September and will be conferred a Doctorate degree in November. People asked me why did I pursue such a degree when I had quite a successful career and

particularly at such a critical time. My answer is I just wanted to fulfil my promise to my father that I would achieve academically a promise that I made 42 years ago.

The message that I would like to share with all of you is: "When there is a will, there is a way". You can always turn impossible into possible by having a can do, will do attitude and moving forward with zest and vigour.

Moving from IT Management to Project Management is the path I choose for the last 3 years due to circumstances. I felt the change of dimension actually is good for me as I can be more focused. The economy was declining in the last few years and accordingly the IT job market was shrinking simultaneously. There appears to be less opportunity for the young tigers in the IT industry. But this should not deter individual progress. While the IT Industry is

transforming, there are new opportunities to explore new markets, changed markets and new knowledge, which will complement your IT skills. Your creativity and skill base will be the basis for your springboard to another new career profile provided you work hard at it. Continuous learning and focus on key areas that are getting popular is important. Know your own strengths and weaknesses and try to improve on them is vital. New opportunity is waiting for you out there. Never give up!

My case is just an illustratory example. There can be many variations of job changes depending on what you want and what circumstances dictate. Some people said that it would require strong will power, determination, perseverance and patience to do what I have done. Nevertheless, I believe in: "God help those who help themselves". If I can do it, you can do it.



Mrs Edith Mok (2nd from left) with family



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Hong Kong Computer Society eBusiness Specialist Group (eBizSG)

Joint Luncheon Talk with “The Hong Kong Law Society”

26 November 2003

“Rethinking Legal Business Models in the Internet Age”

Various vertical service industries harness the power of Internet to deliver value to their customers; the legal profession is one of them. Like most professional groups, lawyers are now using the Internet for their personal productivity as well as that of the firm they represent.

The Hong Kong Computer Society (HKCS) offers you a peek into the legal profession and how its results-driven practitioners are using Information Technology to their advantage as well as the challenges they encounter in the process.

Date:	Wednesday, 26 November 2003
Time:	1:00pm to 2:30pm
Language:	English
Venue:	The Lecture Hall, The Law Society of Hong Kong, 3/F, Wing-On House, 71 Des Voeux Road, Central, Hong Kong
Seats:	Seats are limited on a first-come-first served basis
Fee:	HKCS member (Free-of-Charge)
	Non-member (HK\$150) * No lunch will be provided.

Speaker: Professor Matthew Lee

Professor Matthew K. O. Lee is Associate Dean and Professor of Information Systems at the Faculty of Business, City University of Hong Kong. He is a Chartered Engineer and a Practising Barrister, specializing in IT related legal issues in business and the application of IT in the legal field. Professor Lee was a former vice-chairman of the Hong Kong Computer Society e-Business Special Interest Group and is currently a Director at Computer and Technologies Holdings Ltd.

We look forward to seeing you at this valuable opportunity for learning!

REPLY SLIP

Fax to: Hong Kong Computer Society (+852 2834-3003)

I would like to join HKCS eBizSG "Rethinking Legal Business Models in the Internet Age" Luncheon Talk on 26 November 2003 (Wednesday).

Name: _____ Title: _____

Company Name: _____

Daytime Tel: _____ Fax No: _____

HKCS Member? Yes, my membership number: _____

No, a cheque of HK\$ _____ will be sent to HKCS.*

Email: _____ Signature: _____

For Enquiries, please contact Miss Amy Lo (+852 2834-2228) or email to amy@hkcs.org.hk

* Please enclose cheque for appropriate amount payable to "Hong Kong Computer Society", and send to Room 1915, 19/F., China Merchants Tower, Shun Tak Centre, 168 Connaught Road Central, H K with this Reply Slip. Your registration will be completed upon receiving your payment. Thank you!

HKCS Upcoming Events

			Location	Organizers / Supporters
2003				
September through December	16 9	Linux Business Adoption Campaign	HKPC	ITSD-HKSAR, HKPC, HKLIA, HKCS
November	25	Seminar on Software Quality and Project Management	KPMG Prof Training Ctr	HKCS ISSG, ISACA
	25	HKCS Mentorship Program Launching Gathering	SCOPE, CityU	HKCS
	26	eBizSG Joint Luncheon Talk with "The Hong Kong Law Society"	HK Law Society	HKCS eBizSG
	27	CPD Programme Briefing Session	HKCS	HKCS
	27	Business Opportunities of Shenzhen Futian Technology Achievements	HKCEC	HKCS
December	tbd	Professional Service Expo Visit	Shenzhen	
	2-5	International Conference on Computers in Education (ICCE 2003)	HKCEC	HKCS
	3-5	Project Management Institute International Conference 2003 (PMIC 2003)	HKCEC	PMI-HK, HKCS
	6-10	Asia Pacific Information & Communication Technology Award (APICTA 2003)	Bangkok	7 entries nominated by HKCS to represent HK
	8	APICTA Executive Committee Meeting	Bangkok	HKCS to represent HK ACI Member
	16	X'mas and Welcome Party	Craigengower Cricket Club	HKCS
2004				
January	6	HKCS Speakers Meeting	tbd	HKCS
February	tbd	Spring Dinner	tbd	HKCS
	23	Fund Raising Golf Day	HKGC	



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Hong Kong Computer Society

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