



News release

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New career building community offers hope to hard hit ICT professionals

The ICT Human Resources Consortium has embarked on an initiative aimed at reducing unemployment in the ICT field and supporting professionalism and career development. The Consortium, whose members include a host of respected ICT industry bodies, is launching ICT Career Centre (ICTCareer) – the SAR’s first dedicated, online and offline ICT career building community.

ICTCareer is independent and supported by major industry associations, IT vendors, recruitment agencies and the Hong Kong SAR Government. In addition to offering job seeking services for local ICT professionals, ICTCareer comprises a number of different pillars that can provide value-added services for a variety of ICT careers builders, including graduates and self-employed ICT professionals.

The pillars include:

- Finding a permanent and short-term contract job
- Starting an IT-related business
- IT Solution & Service Centre for SMEs
- Becoming a self-employed IT consultant
- Finding an internship
- Creating Permanent Jobs
- Getting training

“Hong Kong has weathered the financial tsunami far better than a lot of places. Many people credit this to sound management, a deep-seated work ethic and one of the most technologically advanced infrastructures in Asia. However, the unsung heroes who created the electronic miracle are under pressure,” said Sunny Lee, Chairperson, Advisory Committee of ICT Career Centre, ICT Human Resources Consortium, who is also the president of the Hong Kong Computer Society.

According to the Hong Kong Government Census and Statistics Department's September report (which compared June 2008 with June 2009 figures), total employment in the private sector was down by 1.5 per cent, whilst the ICT sector employment rates dropped by 3.3 per cent.

“A longstanding lack of clear career path development has combined with the impact of a battered economy to present ICT professionals with one of the worst employment outlooks in history. The new ICTCareer community will help change that picture. And, if we manage to encourage more organisations, such as recruitment firms, IT vendors and established businesses to embrace ICTCareer, I am confident it will be a success,” said Lee.

Fortunately, the latest three-month unemployment rate recorded its first drop, from 5.4 per cent to 5.3 per cent, since the outbreak of the global financial turmoil last year, and information and communications was one of the beneficial sectors. The launch of ICTCareer comes just in time to help local ICT professionals and potential employers find their perfect match and prepare for economic recovery.

In his most recent policy address, the Chief Executive of the Hong Kong SAR Government mentioned a focus on six new industries, in addition to the traditional economic pillars. The six include education services, medical services, testing and certification services, environmental industries, innovation and technology as well as cultural and creative industries. ICT expertise will undoubtedly play a significant role in turning policy into proven, performing businesses.

The new career building community is geared towards helping hard hit ICT professionals. While ICTCareer is in its final stage of preparation and will start providing services in a month, the organisers are actively encouraging recruitment agencies, IT vendors, and other parties to join and contribute to improving the career prospects for local ICT professionals. Interested parties can email to the Secretariat of ICT Career Centre (ictcareer@hkcs.org.hk). ICT professionals are also welcomed to join the [ictcareerhk LinkedIn](#) group, the [ictcareerhk Facebook](#) group, or become a follower of [ictcareerhk@Twitter](#) for activity updates.

The new community was launched at a ceremony attended by guest of honour, Mrs Rita Lau Ng Wai-Lan, JP Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development, Mr Jeremy Godfrey, Government Chief Information Officer, of the HK SAR Government and Dr Samson Tam, Member of Legislative Council (IT). They were joined by Sunny Lee, Chairperson, Advisory Committee of ICT Career

Centre, ICT Human Resources Consortium, and other consortium members.

About the ICTCareer Centre

The ICT Career Centre is Hong Kong's first dedicated, online and offline ICT career building community. It was set up by the ICT Human Resources Consortium as part of an initiative to reduce unemployment in the ICT field and support professionalism and career development. Consortium members include the Hong Kong Computer Society, Hong Kong Cyberport Management Company Limited, Hong Kong Information Technology Joint Council, The Hong Kong Institution of Engineers - Electronics Division, Hong Kong Software Industry Association, Hong Kong United Youth Science and Technology Association, Hong Kong Wireless Technology Industry Association, Information and Software Industry Association, Internet Professional Association, Internet Society Hong Kong.

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