



# IT Innovation

## Value Creation and Economic Transformation

**Hong Kong International Computer Conference 2009**  
5-6 November 2009, Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre

### News release

5 November 2009

### Technology and real value the keys to transforming the economy and avoiding crises

While the dire predictions of a crisis on the scale of the “Great Depression” have not come to pass, the recent financial tsunami has taught the world some valuable lessons. This was the message an audience comprising representatives from Hong Kong's information technology community, major industry sectors including financial services and senior government officials heard at the opening ceremony of the Hong Kong International Computer Conference 2009.

According to Professor Paul Y S Cheung, the Chairman of the HKICC2009 Programme Committee, the world has to move away from a purely finance-driven economy and ensure that the wealth the economy generates is genuine, not fictitious. And technology has a key role to play!

“We need to go back to fundamentals and transform our economy into something that is genuinely productive. Information technology can be a key component for fuelling this transformation. Indeed, it has already made significant changes in the way the world does business,” said Professor Cheung.

The event was opened by the Hong Kong SAR Government's Secretary for Economic Development, Mrs Rita Lau Ng Wai-Lan JP. The speakers list for the two-day event, reads like a Who's Who of the IT industry. It includes government officials and academics keen to share their particular insight on IT Innovation - Value Creation and Economic Transformation.

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It is clear that using technology to create a solid economic return is now embedded deeply in the fabric of Hong Kong's businesses. IT lies at the core of the city's competitiveness and exploiting it in new and innovative ways is one of the keys to Hong Kong's long-term economic success.

"The IT revolution hasn't happened overnight. The process has been evolutionary. And I am pleased to say that the Hong Kong Computer Society, which celebrates its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year, has played its part. For example, we have been organising the Hong Kong International Computer Conference for the last thirty one years," said the President of the Hong Kong Computer Society, Sunny Lee.

This year's Hong Kong International Computer Conference 2009 recognises this synergy – the link between technology and economic performance. It even took it a step further, examining exactly how the innovative use of IT is creating value and transforming the local and regional economy.

"As the experts examine the latest trends and IT developments, I am certain of one thing; Hong Kong will continue to embrace technology to create value and fuel economic transformation," said Lee.

However, looking back does not always provide an accurate picture of what the future may have in store. According to HKICC2009 Organising Committee Chairperson, Dr Kennedy Wong, BBS, DCL, JP, Hong Kong is a surprising place. Just when people think they know what makes the city tick, it changes!

"Lately, it has become clear that Hong Kong's ability to adapt and meet new challenges is due in no small way to eagerness with which individuals, organisations and the public sector have embraced technology," said Dr Wong.

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“Take education, healthcare, transportation, culture and entertainment for example where technology has not only made a practical difference, it has also added an extra, “green” dimension.

Technological innovation has also linked Hong Kong ever more comprehensively with businesses and economy of China, delivering tangible efficiencies and commercial benefits to both sides as well as our customers.

“I think the importance of technology to Hong Kong and its economy is highlighted by the impressive programme at HKICC2009. It includes high-powered local and international speakers sharing their expertise and fuel discussion on issues ranging from Regional Collaboration in R&D to e-Crime, Fraud and Security and Entrepreneurship in the IT Industry,” said Dr Wong.

#### About HKICC2009

The HKICC is an annual event organised by the Hong Kong Computer Society (HKCS). Its goal is to bring together IT professionals and business and government leaders from all over the world to explore the opportunities that information technology can offer, sharing successes and insight. More than 500 delegates attended last year's conference, representing a variety of local and overseas public and private sector organisations.

#### Hong Kong Computer Society (HKCS)

Established in 1970, the Hong Kong Computer Society (HKCS) is an established non-profit organisation dedicated to improving and developing Hong Kong's information technology industry (IT).

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Committed to promoting the highest professional standards, the HKCS was the Hong Kong IT industry's first recognised professional organisation and is also the largest. It draws its members from a diverse array of IT users, corporations and individuals who work together to enhance the industry's capability and profile.

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