**Press Release**

## Asia Pacific Information and Communications Technology Alliance Awards 2023 (APICTA 2023) kicks off in Hong Kong

**5 December 2023, Hong Kong** - Jointly organised by the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer (OGCIO) of the HKSAR Government and Hong Kong Computer Society (HKCS), and co-organised by Hong Kong Cyberport, the prestigious Asia Pacific Information and Communications Technology Alliance Awards 2023 (APICTA 2023) opened today at Cyberport, Hong Kong.

The guest of honour at the opening ceremony was Prof Dong Sun, JP, Secretary for Innovation, Technology and Industry of the HKSAR Government, who said: "It is a great honor for Hong Kong to host the prestigious APICTA Awards for the third time. This recognition reflects Hong Kong's standing as a vibrant ICT hub and underscores the Government's unwavering dedication to nurturing innovation and fostering the growth of Hong Kong's ICT ecosystem. I wish all entries and teams great victory and success."

Hundreds of delegates from the other 15 economies of APICTA were warmly welcomed by Dr Rocky Cheng, President of Hong Kong Computer Society and Advisor to the Organising Committee of the event, and the Chair of APICTA, Mr Fulvio Inserra.

In his welcoming remarks, Dr Rocky Cheng said: "Hong Kong had the privilege to host APICTA in 2004 and again in 2013. Both were immensely successful events distinguished by our effective project management as well as showcasing our highly developed digital communications infrastructure. This year, HKCS successfully bid to host APICTA 2023 in Hong Kong. This achievement has not only enhanced Hong Kong's image as an international events city, but it also presents an excellent opportunity to tell good stories about Hong Kong to the entire Asia Pacific region."

"With over 100 awards earned in previous APICTA programmes across a diverse range of categories, Hong Kong has the honour of being the most awarded economy. These awards have enabled Hong Kong's ICT innovations to gain international recognition and momentum. They also have allowed locally-developed, talented individuals to make their mark internationally. Hong Kong's prominence in APICTA is the result of the collaborative effort between the Government and our innovation and technology sectors. It is achieved through

a flourishing ecosystem of investment, infrastructure, constructive R&D funding at our universities and startup incubating platforms including Cyberport and Hong Kong Science and Technology Park."

These comments were echoed by Mr Inserra, who said: "APICTA has always played a significant role in driving innovation across the region by establishing the widest platform of regional economies and bringing together competing companies and ambitious young academics. This intensive level of competition encourages further development in each economy, as participating teams and tech industry experts come together and exchange ideas during this annual week of events. Thanks again to our Hong Kong colleagues for raising the bar once more and setting new organisational standards for APICTA 2023."

Peter Yan, Chairperson of APICTA 2023 Hong Kong Organising Committee, closed the ceremony and praised APICTA for her achievements in promoting technology applications in the region: "Besides showcasing leading technology applications, APICTA is an excellent platform of knowledge sharing and the celebration of friendship among the participating economies, not to mention the recognition of how technology has contributed to the improved living of people. This recognition has not only enabled the awardees to cultivate investor interest and facilitate market expansion, but also promoting regional ICT advancement and social economic development."

In addition to encouraging networking amongst competing entries, delegates and judges, the opening ceremony also marked the beginning of an action-packed four-day schedule. Business and ICT leaders will be judging competing entries from across the Asia-Pacific region. Students and start-ups will be meeting and networking with like-minded innovators. Exchanges will be further stimulated by an extensive agenda of activities that will take delegates to multiple locations across Hong Kong and offer a closer look at the many attractions of the host territory.

Most importantly, APICTA 2023 will conclude with a grand awards presentation ceremony on Friday 8th December, during which winners and merits from the 24 awards categories will be formally recognised at the "Oscars of Tech industry" in the Asia Pacific.

APICTA 2023 received an overwhelming response with over 250 entries from enterprise and student teams. The teams will compete for the honours in 24 awards categories.

Hosted in Hong Kong, APICTA 2023 attracted over 600 delegates from the 16 member economies. These delegates were nominated by their home economies and have presented their solutions to a panel of judges, comprising ICT experts from member economies during the APICTA week. The stringent judging process ensures a fair and impartial assessment, in order to enhance the credibility of the results.

For more details and pictures of the opening ceremony, please visit:
https://drive.google.com/drive/u/2/folders/1zYHh6je1jQXDlZYou_x-8kXGJQNuNWQb

## About the Asia Pacific Information and Communications Technology Alliance (APICTA) Awards

APICTA Awards is an annual flagship event of the ICT industry in the Asia Pacific region. Founded in 2001 by Malaysia, it has become a renowned international award today. APICTA aims to recognise organisations and individuals in the Asia Pacific region who have made a significant contribution to the ICT industry; increase ICT awareness in the community; stimulate ICT innovation; provide opportunities for business matching between IT innovators and investors; and facilitate technology transfer and application.

APICTA is represented by 16 economies across the Asia Pacific region. These member economies take turns hosting the annual awards each year, which is won through a bidding process.

For more information, please visit www.apicta.org.

Since APICTA was established in 2001, the Hong Kong Computer Society, as a well-established ICT professional association of its kind with an in-depth understanding of local ICT industry development, has been responsible, as a founding Executive Committee Member, for nominating Hong Kong's ICT talents to participate in the event.

## About the Hong Kong Computer Society (HKCS)

Founded in 1970, the Hong Kong Computer Society (HKCS) is a recognised non-profit professional organisation focused on developing Hong Kong's Information Technology (IT) profession and industry. Their members come from a broad spectrum of Hong Kong's IT community, from corporations to like-minded individuals, all coming together to raise the profile and standards of the IT profession and industry. As a well-established IT professional body, the Society is committed to professional and industry development as well as community services to ensure the IT sector continues to make a positive impact on peoples' lives with three main goals, namely, 1) talent cultivation and professional development, 2)

industry development and collaboration, and 3) the effective use of IT in our community. For more details, please visit http://www.hkcs.org.hk.

**About the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer of the Government of the HKSAR**

Headed by the Government Chief Information Officer, the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer (OGCIO) is responsible for formulating information technology (IT) strategies, programmes and measures, in addition to providing IT services and support within the Government to help sustain Hong Kong's position as Asia's leading digital city.

The OGCIO ensures that the Government provides the public with information and services they need in an efficient and convenient manner by using IT appropriately, and supports bureaux/departments to make best use of IT to achieve their policy objectives.

The OGCIO supports the development of community-wide information technology infrastructure and setting of technical and professional standards so as to strengthen Hong Kong's position as a world digital city and make Hong Kong a well-known smart city.

For more details, please visit https://www.ogcio.gov.hk/.

**About Hong Kong Cyberport**

Cyberport is Hong Kong's digital technology flagship and incubator for entrepreneurship with over 2,000 members including over 900 onsite and close to 1,100 offsite start-ups and technology companies. It is managed by Hong Kong Cyberport Management Company Limited, wholly owned by the Hong Kong SAR Government. With a vision to be the hub for digital technology, thereby creating a new economic driver for Hong Kong, Cyberport is committed to nurturing a vibrant tech ecosystem by cultivating talent, promoting entrepreneurship among youth, supporting start-ups, fostering industry development by promoting strategic collaboration with local and international partners, and integrating new and traditional economies by accelerating digital transformation in public and private sectors.

For more information, please visit http://www.cyberport.hk

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