

For Immediate Release
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HKISPA to promote a Code for safeguarding your personal data

Internet Service Providers (ISPs) and law enforcement agencies share a common interest in the prevention, detection and investigation of criminal activity, whilst balancing the rights and privacy of individuals.

The Hong Kong Internet Service Providers Association (HKISPA), together with Hong Kong International Screen Association (HKISA), has held the 7th ISP Symposium on 26 September 2014 to promote a Code of Practice for Release of Information to further that common interest and to strengthen the protection of personal data.

The Code is now in its draft form, and will be further refined taking the numerous comments and contributions from participants to the Symposium yesterday.

“ISPs in Hong Kong have always been cooperative with law enforcers to fight crimes.” said **Lento Yip**, Chairman of the HKISPA, “The objective of promoting this Code is to enhance better understanding between ISPs and law enforcers, whilst delivering all the available protections to customers’ data.”

“I believe putting this cooperation between Service Providers and Law Enforcements into a standard framework would only bring benefits to all parties, and raise the willingness of Service Providers to proactively cooperate with law enforcers.” said **Sam Ho**, Chairman of Hong Kong International Screen Association, who champions copyright protection. “HK is making progress on different fronts in fighting online piracy. I am sure this Code is a good development. In addition, the Copyright (Amendment) Bill is also a pivotal building block to protect ISPs from legal liabilities, therefore I urge the LegCo and the government to put the bill to readings as soon as possible.”

“I am happy to see that the industry and the law enforcers proactively working together for combating crime while protecting rights to privacy.” said **Charles Mok**, Legislative Councilor for Information Technology Functional Constituency. “To further take the Internet of HK to the world’s forefront, I believe the Code should gradually evolve to recommend more transparency from service providers to the public.”

“As an ex-IT LegCo member and a current member for the citizens of HK Island, I find adopting this Code offers an even better protection to online data of the general public.” said Legislative Councilor **CK Sin**.

“I am grateful that so many stakeholders have provided suggestions and support to promote and adopt the HKISPA Code, as this will strengthen Hong Kong’s IT industries and strengthen data protection for Hong Kong consumers.” said **Nick Chan**, a prominent IT Lawyer and Legal Advisor to the HKISPA.

“The Internet is becoming homogenous. Data centers as a fundamental part of the Internet definitely supports putting the cooperation between the industry and law enforcements into a

framework acceptable to all parties.” said **William Wai**, Senior Vice President of HKCOLO and Chairman of Asia Data Centre Alliance.

“Litigations and their bills of costs are very familiar things to me”, said **Joe Lam**, CEO of Alive! Media & Communications Ltd, which operates the popular hkgolden.com discussion forum. “I hope that with this Code adopted by the industry, individual companies will be better protected when they only reveal customer data according to the guidelines provided by the Code.”

“Each year, copyright owners are losing big sources of revenue to online piracy. We welcome any effort of the ISP industry and the law enforcers to have a tighter cooperation to combat such piracy”, said **Checkley Sin**, Chairman of National Arts Entertainment and Culture Group Ltd.

“We are hosting huge amount of customer data on our network”, said **Eric Fan** of UDomain, a leading web hosting company, “We welcome a Code that standardizes the practice of releasing information, so that the right level of protection to operators be maintained across the industry.”

A total of 39 representatives from The Hong Kong Police Force, Customs and Excise Department, The Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data, telecom operators, data center operators, domain name operator, academia, online discussion forums, hosting service providers, music and movie producers and copyright owners participated in the symposium.

Further information about the Symposium and a copy of the draft Code for Release of Information are available at <http://www.hkispas.org.hk/symposium2014.html>

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About HKISPA: The Hong Kong Internet Service Providers Association (HKISPA) was formed in 1989, with locally licensed ISPs as its members. The mission of the HKISPA includes: acting as a discussion forum on Internet related matters, the promotion of Internet development in Hong Kong, the promotion of fair competition and codes of practice, and working with government agencies and the public on Internet related issues. Currently, the HKISPA is operating projects to attract China businesses to use ICT services of Hong Kong, and educate local SMEs to use ICT for business. More information can be obtained at www.hkispas.org.hk.

About HKISA: The Hong Kong International Screen Association Limited (HKISA) serves to promote and protect the screen community in the Greater China region. In 2008, the film and TV industry in Hong Kong contributed HK\$33 billion and generated a total of HK\$6 billion value-add to the local economy creating more than 32,000 jobs in 1,170 businesses. HKISA works closely with its supporters, government, community and enforcement authorities to achieve its aims. For more information about the HKISA, please visit www.hkisal.org.

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