

Chairman's Report

Hong Kong Public Key Infrastructure Forum

At 6th Annual General Meeting on 8 October, 2008

Dear Members,

Thank you very much for attending this year's AGM.

The period since our last AGM has been marked by changes, with the addition of a number of new members and the decision to convert the legal status of our organization from an unincorporated entity registered under the Societies Ordinance to one incorporated under the Companies Ordinance and limited by guarantee. With the Hong Kong Public Key Infrastructure Forum Limited now up and running, this will be the last AGM for the Forum: all existing members will automatically become members of this new company and next year we will be holding the first AGM for this entity. While each member currently represented on the Forum's Steering Committee has a right to nominate a representative to serve on the Steering Committee of this new company, an insufficient number of nominations have been received to date. As a result, Sengital Limited has kindly agreed to nominate Mr. Alan Chan to serve as a member of the Steering Committee of the new company until its first AGM, at which time elections will be held for all members of this Committee.

Since the reasons for changing the legal status had already been outlined, debated and approved, I will not go through them again here. Suffice to say that we believe this new corporate vehicle provides us with a more appropriate framework to support a broader membership base as well as dealings with third parties relating to, for example, the organization or promotion of events. In addition, it is interesting to note that the Asia PKI Forum, of which we had been a member, has also reconstituted itself within the past year as the Asia PKI Consortium, with a permanent secretariat in Beijing.

In relation to the Forum's objectives of promoting greater awareness and usage of PKI products and services locally as well as globally, several important initiatives were started or undertaken during the past year. First, the process of deploying digital certificates in personal computers has been simplified. In conjunction with the introduction by Hongkong Post Certification Authority of the e-Cert File Card as an alternative and longer-lasting media for storing e-Certs, 2 members of the Forum – E-Mice Group and Sengital Limited – co-developed 2 USB-compatible devices that enable digital certificates stored on such cards to be called up with a few computer key-strokes.

Secondly, further progress has been made to encourage greater digital certificate

usage through the development of software applications that make use of the authentication, encryption and/or legally-binding capabilities of the Hongkong Post e-Cert to address the specific needs of different elements of our society. For example, to tackle growing concerns about the loss or theft of sensitive personal data or files stored digitally, the E-Mice Group introduced “Encryptone”, a software program that enables subscribers deploying their e-Certs to protect their own digital files or folders via encryption as well as to exchange encrypted data amongst themselves in a very user-friendly manner.

Thirdly, in relation to PKI-related activities outside of Hong Kong, the Forum sent a representative to attend the Asia PKI Forum’s annual meeting held in X’ian last November, with the focus of that 2-day event being on PKI developments on the Mainland and the proposed reconstitution of that regional forum into the Asia PKI Consortium. With the Consortium now established with a representative of Mainland China as Chairman and one each from Japan and South Korea as Vice-Chairman, the Hong Kong Public Key Infrastructure Forum Limited has accepted an invitation to join this new organization as a principal member at an initial discounted fee of US\$5,000.

Additionally, given similarities in the regulatory regimes for digital certificates in both the HKSAR and the Mainland coupled with promotion of secure cross-border e-commerce becoming one of the services liberalization initiatives under Supplement V to CEPA, we have begun to explore how the Forum and/or its members might best be able to participate in Government-supported programs to drive digital certificate usage primarily within the Pearl River Delta region. Such programs may include application for R&D grants that may result in benefits to the Forum, and participation in seminars and events that may enable Forum members to identify potential PKI-related cross-border business opportunities.

With a new corporate structure in place and growing interest in how the capabilities of digital certificates can be made use of to protect digital data or enable “safe” online communications, we hope that there will be growing opportunities for our members to work together to promote awareness and usage of PKI products and services.

**For and on behalf of
E-Mice Solutions (HK) Limited**

**Winston Leong
Chairman**

September 2008