

**Meeting Notes of the 2nd Meeting of Roundtable on Healthy Use of Internet convened by Information Technology Resource Centre Limited, The Hong Kong Council of Social Service**

Date: 5 December 2008 (Friday)

Time: 9:30 am – 12:45 pm

Venue: Lecture Hall, 4/F, Duke of Windsor Social Service Building, 15 Hennessy Road, Wanchai, HK

Convenor: Information Technology Resource Centre Limited, The Hong Kong Council of Social Service

Attendance:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Organisation</b>
Mrs. Priscilla LUI	Against Child Abuse Ltd
Mr. YAM Dik-man	Breakthrough Limited
Mr. Chris YU	Committee on Home-School Cooperation
Mr. KAM Shiu Kwan Mr. LUI Kam-ming	Education Bureau
Ms. LAM Ching-tong Mr. HUNG Hin Ching Ms. Emily LAU	Hong Kong Christian Service
Ms. NG Mei-mei	Hong Kong Education City Limited
Ms. VU King-tang, Eunis	Hong Kong Family Welfare Society
Mr. Ringo LAM Mr. Alex HUNG	Internet Professional Association
Mr. Charles MOK Mr. Edmon CHUNG	Internet Society Hong Kong
Dr. Samson TAM	Legislative Councilor (Functional Constituency - Information Technology)
Mr. CHEUNG Kwok-che	Legislative Councilor (Functional Constituency - Social Welfare)
Ms. Winnie YEUNG	Microsoft Hong Kong Limited
Ms. Mayella CHEUNG	Radio Television Hong Kong
Mr. TSUI Wai Him	Salvation Army
Ms. TANG Hoi-yan, Heidi	St. James' Settlement - Causeway Bay Integrated Service Centre
Mr. CHAN Kwok-wing	The Boys' & Girls' Clubs Association of Hong Kong
Mr. Ken NGAI	The Hong Kong Federation of Youth Groups
Mr. York MOK	The Hong Kong Internet Service Providers Association
Mr. FUNG Chi-ho Benjamin	The Tsung Tsin Mission of HK Social Service Company Limited
Ms. CHAN Ching-han, Helen	Tung Wah Group of Hospitals
Mr. LEUNG Chun-pon	Yang Memorial Methodist Social Service
Mr. CHAN Ming Sang	Hong Kong Confederation of Trade Union
Ms. WONG Yuen Ting	思光家庭綜合服務中心
Ms. Alky YUNG	The Hong Kong Tuberculosis, Chest and Heart Diseases Association
Ms. Becky CHEUNG Hang Kuen	United Christian Nethersole Community Health Service
Ms. SUN CHAN Hing Shan	United Christian Nethersole Community Health Service
Mr. Tony WONG	Office of Government Chief Information Officer

Prof. Patrick CHAU	Hong Kong Computer Society
Dr. Grace LEUNG Lai-kuen	Chinese University of Hong Kong
Mr. Gregory SO	Commerce and Economic Development Bureau
Mr. Kevin CHOI	
Ms. Christine FANG	The Hong Kong Council of Social Service
Dr. Timothy CHAN	
Dr. John FUNG	
Mr. Ken CHAN	
Ms. Kelly LAW	
Mr. Richard CHOW	
Mr. Peter KWOK	

Facilitator: Ms. Christine FANG

### Meeting Notes:

#### 1. Progress, programmes, and findings during the last 6 months in relation to the topic of Healthy Use of Internet

##### Mr. Tony WONG (OGCIO)

- briefed members about the discussion in Digital Inclusion Task Force (DITF). “Healthy and ethical use of ICT” has been included in the DITF’s agenda

##### Mr. Tony LEE (HKCSS)

- an NGO Day was jointly held with Microsoft in June 2008 during which the theme of “healthy and safety use of ICT” was addressed. A good number of NGOs attended.
- a proposal on establishing a community-maintained blacklist and a filtering mechanism was jointly submitted by the HKCSS and Hong Kong ISP Association to Television and Entertainment Licensing Authority
- a website was set up after last roundtable to share related materials amongst roundtable participants

##### Mr. Ken CHAN (HKCSS)

- a forum about internet safety for children was organized by Family Online Safety Institute, the HKCSS organized a delegation to join the forum in Washington DC in December 2008
- the HKCSS also discussed in the standing committees on the COIAO review, and will come up with a formal submission to the government

##### Mr. Ringo LAM (iProA)

- worked on review of copyright laws
- suggested that the term “publishers” in cyberspace is hard to be defined
- there was a revisit to terms like “online service providers (OSP)” and “platform providers” (e.g. Web 2.0 site) in relation to copyright issues

**Mr. Ken NGAI (HKFYG)**

- organized 80-90 school talks on ethical use of Internet
- reflected that only very few students were interested in the topic whereas parents had expressed keen concern primarily on Internet friendships and Internet Addiction
- opined that there were few surveys on the view of youngsters and parents on Internet use
- HKFYG was working on survey on parents' expectation as well as youth's view on the issue
- opined that "healthy use of Internet" should deserve wider coverage. There should be better co-ordination between different government bureaus to address the issue in a concerted and coordinated way
- considered the parents' ICT competency a key issue to be addressed

**Mr. York MOK (HKISPA)**

- jointly submitted the filtering system proposal to TELA with HKCSS
- the proposal emphasized on community participation in maintaining the blacklist, and suggested that parents should have the rights to adopt either a filtered broadband connection or a non-filtered one

**Ms. Emily LAU (HK Christian Service)**

- had worked mainly on Internet Addiction
- thought that there was no specific indexes to reflect the problem of Internet Addiction in HK
- questioned that whether the recent definition of Internet Addiction as a psychological illness in mainland China would have any implication to HK's definition
- also worked on survey on parents' concerns on the obscene & indecent materials in cyberspace

**Ms. Priscilla LUI (ACA)**

- established a "Seed of Love" volunteer program on healthy use of Internet
- pointed out that the issue of "healthy use of Internet" required efforts on policy formulation, mechanism on protecting children and youth, community participation, research data, etc.

**Ms. Winnie YEUNG (Microsoft)**

- jointly organized the NGO Day with HKCSS in June 2008 during which the theme of "healthy and safety use of ICT" was addressed
- had introduced "computer security" in other community programs, such as "Partners in Learning"
- embedded various parental control features in products such as Windows Vista and Windows Live

**Mr. Charles MOK (ISOC)**

- A "Project Net Respect" was conducted to introduce code of ethics for Internet users
- Would involve more volunteers and adopt a product-based oriented approach in 2<sup>nd</sup> stage of the project

**Ms. Eunis VU (HKFWS)**

- A research was done and the results echo finding of HKFYG, i.e. internet addiction is the prime concern of parents
- With TELA's support, 11 public forums to school were conducted and reached more than 1000 parents
- With funding from TELA, an education CD and booklet would be distributed through schools and agencies in

Jan, 2009

## **2. Views, concerns, and questions regarding the consultation on the Control of Obscene and Indecent Articles Ordinance**

### **Mr. Gregory SO (CEDB)**

- Introduced the review on COIAO

### **Dr. Samson TAM (Legco, ITFC)**

- In view of the great difference in nature between Internet and traditional media, a separate discussion is needed to review the legislation controlling obscene & indecent materials in the Internet
- Pointed out that the Web 2.0 development had introduced a different form of information distribution channel where everyone could be a publisher virtually, rendering women and children more vulnerable to the adverse effect of inappropriate materials

### **Mr. CHEUNG Kwok-che (Legco, SWFC)**

- Moral standards of society shall be built through consensus of the community, but not defined by the Government, most importantly, moral standards are ever changing
- The responsibility of protecting children from inappropriate materials shall be born by parents, families, teachers, education systems (formal / informal)

### **Dr. Grace LEUNG (CUHK)**

- It is commonly agreed that the Internet environment is not “healthy” or friendly to children
- Acknowledged the contrasting stands between youth / children (asking for freedom in Internet use) and parents (controlling)
- The government should empower the parents and help them to develop media literacy
- The youth should also have the autonomy to decide what should be seen or not to be seen through the Internet
- Suggested avoiding Singapore approach, excessive “purification” of content would adversely affect creativity

### **Mr. Chris YU (CHSC)**

- Parents are in lack of computer skills
- Thus, filtering or not is not about availability of solutions, but education of parents on computer literacy

### **Hong Kong Christian Service**

- Besides tools and computer skills, parenting skills are also important
- Cyber café is also a serious concern because very few measures could be implemented there

### **Mr. Ringo LAM (iProA)**

- There are many other legal issues besides inappropriate materials, e.g. copyright, hacking, etc.
- Advocated code of practice for ISP, OSP (Online service providers), publishers, etc.
- Pointed out that the obligation of the publishers shall be clearly defined if publishing inappropriate materials are criminal offences

**Mr. Ken CHAN (HKCSS)**

- Most prosecutions nowadays are mostly around legislations related to “Access to computer with criminal or dishonest intent”
- Government seems trying to eliminate its own role and transfer the responsibility to ISPs
- Choice / freedom is secondary concern to protection of children / youth
- Solutions should not only focus on browser level, but also other P2P transmissions, e.g. emule, BT, etc.

**Mr. Edmond CHUNG (ISOC HK)**

- Neutrality of Internet media shall be respected, and that ISPs shall maintain the neutrality and freedom of Internet, thus server side filtering should not be conceptualized as a Corporate Social Responsibility
- Not to separate the discussion of new media / Internet in the consultation, in view of the “medium neutrality” principle
- The consensus to be drawn in the consultation shall not be the solutions, but an agreed view on the definition of problems. A clearer picture of current situation could then be known by more.

**Mr. Ringo LAM (iProA)**

- Suggested a review of current legislation, not necessarily be new enactments
- Suggest new angle for new media, the product could be either code of practice or legislation

**Mr. Ben LI (HKISPA)**

- Focused on chapter 4 of the consultation document
- Pointed out that there are ISPs that provide Internet Filtering service but are not popular / effective

**Mr. York MOK (HKISPA)**

- For filtering, the choice of blacklist shall not be done by ISPs as this will infringe the autonomy of their customers
- Thus, partnering with HKCSS, HKISPA is introducing a community-developed blacklist
- Noted that the parents are comparatively illiterate in computer skills than their children, hence more computer education shall be provided to the parents.

**Ms. Priscilla LUI (ACA)**

- The role of the government is inevitable
- Our children and youth shall be given more opportunities to express their ideas
- Besides legislation, the community shall also discuss on the bottom-line to protect children
- Should put more resources on content analysis, and not only passive solutions or legislation
- More discussions to bring an agreed bottom-line of moral standards / common acceptability
- Government shall be proactive in leading and inducing such discussions, e.g. definition of violence, depravity (腐化) and repulsiveness (可厭)
- More training is needed for current adjudicators

**Mr. HUNG Hin Ching (Hong Kong Christian Service)**

- Reflected youth's mischievous attitude on publishing inappropriate materials – "Catch me if you can"
- If there were more legislations but a poor enforcement, it will in turn "encourage" the youth to defy the law
- Parents, teachers and social workers need more training on computer-related issues
- Enforcement is needed

**Mr. Ringo LAM (iProA)**

- Suggested that the common law system in Hong Kong would need cases to demonstrate what is criminal
- Pointed out that the legislation could hardly catch up with technology advancement, so court cases could be needed to "define" what is legal / illegal, and make youths / teenagers to be more attentive

**Ms. Christine FANG (HKCSS)**

- Concluded the discussion with the following:
  - A bottom-line / moral standards of obscenity and indecency is needed in the society
  - Government's role on related issues are highly important and shall be clearly defined
  - Education / Promotion effort in empowerment of parents; equipping them with appropriate computer skills and tools
  - Training to parents, teachers, social workers needed
  - Though there are difficulties in the discussion on new media, it shall be included in the consultation / public discussion
  - Adequate resources on content analysis and law enforcement are important

**Mr. Ken CHAN (HKCSS)**

- Added that "child impact assessment" is a common practice in foreign countries as a process in introducing / formulating a new social policy

**3. Safer Internet Day and other opportunities**

**Mr. Tony LEE (HKCSS)**

- Introduced the Safer Internet Day initiative (see attachment)

**Ms. Christine FANG (HKCSS)**

- Commented that the web HIM platform received very few feedback from participants
- Invited partners to support and submit any related content
- Invited partners to join the Safer Internet Day (SID) project
- The HIM roundtable will be continued on a regular basis with further facilitation via Web 2.0 technology

**Mr. York MOK (HKISPA)**

- Commented that the HIM roundtable platform provided good opportunities to communicate with different NGOs & should be continued

**Mr. Alex HUNG (iProA)**

- Supported the SID initiative

- Suggested to established sub-groups for project implementation or discussions

Prepared by: Peter Kwok, Project Manager  
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