



By Email & Fax

Office of the Government Chief Information Officer
The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region
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Attn: Mr. Howard Dickson, Government Chief Information Officer

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Date: 11 August 2005

RE: The .ASIA Initiative (Your Ref: GCIO 1/55/27)

Dear Mr. Dickson,

It is very good to hear from you about your thoughts on the .ASIA initiative. DotAsia Organisation believes in continuing this constructive discussion with yourself and other government representatives around the region to ensure the success of and the reflection of government perspectives in the ongoing policy development for the .ASIA registry. We view this as an ongoing process and look forward to your continued participation.

Towards this regard, we will continue to hold meetings with GAC members in the community in conjunction with ICANN meetings and host a mailing list for government representatives to voice and discuss issues regarding the registry. We welcome your participation in the meetings and will add you to our mailing list to provide you with updates from the Organisation as we progress.

From your letter, it seems that you have reservations for DotAsia Organisation being a private company. Would the concern perhaps be in the nature of understanding the constitution, membership openness and the governance of the Organisation more so than the technical registration structure? For example, in fact many international and local organisations participating in the management of Internet resources such as domain names and IP addresses are based on a private not-for-profit company structure, these include ICANN, successful Asia Pacific initiatives such as APNIC, APTLD, and also the .HK registry (HKIRC) among many others.

DotAsia Organisation will be a membership-based, not-for-profit, limited-by-guarantee company registered in Hong Kong with no shareholders. In the current proposed constitution, the Organisation will be comprised of 2 types of membership: Sponsor Members – ccTLDs in the community; and, Co-Sponsor Members – regional based Internet / telecom / IT related organisations in the community (e.g. APNIC, APNG, etc.). Membership will continue to be open for constituent organisations. Furthermore, the board of directors of the Organisation will be elected from the members and geographical diversity of board members will also be observed.

For a set of FAQ on the .ASIA initiative, please check out: <http://www.dotasia.org/about/faq.html>. For more detailed explanation of the proposed structure and governance of the Organisation, we encourage you to review the descriptions published as part of our application to ICANN at: <http://www.icann.org/tlds/stld-apps-19mar04/asia.htm>, especially the sections for “Sponsoring Organisation Structure”, “Openness and Transparency”, “Selection of Directors, Officers, Members, Staff”, Meetings and Communication, as well as “Policy-Making Process”. We are confident that you will find that the architecture is well thought and ensures

that the Organisation will not be unduly jeopardised due to its private-sector nature. Of course, there may be further room for improvement and therefore we continue to be open to comments from different constituencies of the community.

As a not-for-profit organisation, the company will have no shareholders per se, and will not issue dividends of any sort. This will be monitored in a transparent manner as described in the application by all stakeholders in the community. Surplus proceeds will be reinvested back into socio-technological advancement initiatives relevant to the Pan-Asia and Asia Pacific Internet community. A Proceeds Steering Committee will be appointed by the board of directors. In order for the funds to be effectively administered, DotAsia Organisation does not intend to create other initiatives on its own, but will look to leverage already well established initiatives to provide funding and sponsorship (e.g. UNDP-APDIP activities, IDRC-PAN, and other regional, international or local organisations).

We hope that this clarification alleviates your concern about DotAsia Organisation being a private company. Following the footsteps of very successful private-sector initiatives, especially as we have seen in the Asian community, we are confident that a bottom-up approach with due considerations and communications with corresponding governments will be an appropriate and sustainable architecture for the .ASIA registry. We would also like to take the opportunity to meet with you in person to further explain the initiative and to solicit feedback from the HKSAR Government to further improve on the .ASIA initiative.

Finally, it is good for us to understand that you are neutral to the initiative. We are also confident that through continued communication with open and transparent due process, we will be able to address your concerns and provide you with ongoing information about the Organisation to allow you to feel comfortable that your concerns from the HKSAR Government perspective are being addressed appropriately.

Again, we are glad to hear from you and are enthusiastic to see to it that your concerns are addressed. We look forward to meeting with you as well as to further explain to you the initiative to further coordinate and cooperate with the HKSAR Government as we embark on this remarkable journey to create a meaningful TLD for the Pan-Asia and Asia Pacific Internet community.

Sincerely,



Che-Hoo Cheng
Interim CEO
DotAsia Organisation

cc: Dr. Paul Twomey, President & CEO, ICANN
Mr. Stephen Mak, Deputy Government Chief Information Officer, OGCI