

Hong Kong Internet Registration Corporation Limited (HKIRC)

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For Immediate Release

HKIRC INVITES INTERNET DOMAIN NAME USERS TO BECOME MEMBERS

HONG KONG, 18 December 2002 – Hong Kong Internet Registration Corporation Limited (“HKIRC”) today announced the kickoff of the first membership scheme in Hong Kong’s Internet domain names community.

All “.hk” domain name holders who have completed re-registration or registered after 1 June 2001 are qualified and welcome to enrol for membership so as to participate in the forthcoming annual election for the Board of Directors and the Annual General Meeting. The successfully registered members have the right to be elected to the Board of HKIRC or nominate other persons to be candidates for the election. No membership fee will be levied in the first year.

“We are committed to the development and improvement of Hong Kong’s Internet domain name registration services, which must continuously be aligned with the expectation of different sectors of the community,” said Joseph Yu, chairman of the Board of HKIRC, who is also a member of the Executive Board of the Chinese General Chamber of Commerce. “Their opinions will ensure that views from different sectors will be taken into account in enhancing the Internet registration services delivered by HKIRC, which in turn enables us to provide a more customer-oriented service to the public,” Mr. Yu continued.

Members are divided into six member classes, namely User Class, Service Provider Class, IT Industry Class, Commerce and Industry Class, Government Class and Tertiary Institution Class. There are specific prerequisites to be met in order to be admitted to a specific member class.

The first annual election for the Board will commence in early March 2003. All election will be confirmed during the Annual General Meeting in late March 2003. To be eligible for participating in this election, the deadline for membership enrollment is 31 January 2003. Detailed information regarding the membership

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registration and election process is available on the HKIRC Web site at members.hkirc.net.hk/MRS/faq/.

About HKIRC

HKIRC was established as a non-profit-making and non-statutory organization to oversee the administration and assignment of the country-code top level domain (ccTLD), i.e. “.hk”, for Hong Kong. In addition, HKIRC represents Hong Kong in international Internet forum and plays a key role in facilitating Hong Kong’s e-business development.

HKIRC’s Board of Directors oversees the management and operations of HKIRC and its subsidiary. The Directors on the board represents the views of different community sectors including Internet users, Internet service providers, IT industry, commercial and industry sector, the Government as well as the academic communities. This ensures that market-oriented services can be provided by HKIRC to the user community in Hong Kong. The first Board of Directors of HKIRC comprises eight members from the academia, government, information technology, Internet service providers, commercial and legal sectors.

As the administrator of “.hk” domain names, HKIRC assumes the responsibility of registration and assignment of Internet domain names ending with “.com.hk”, “.org.hk”, “.net.hk”, “.edu.hk” and “.gov.hk” and any other Second Level Domains to be introduced from time to time in Hong Kong.

For further details about membership enrollment, please visit www.hkirc.net.hk or by calling +852 2319 1313.