

Press Release

For Immediate Release

IRASIA.COM WINS OFFICIAL STATUS FOR ON-LINE ENGLISH STATUTORY NOTICES IN HONG KONG

28 January 2002, Hong Kong - irasia.com Limited is pleased to announce that it has won the government approval as a specified publisher of English statutory notices for Hong Kong listed companies.

Ms Alison Chow, CEO of irasia.com welcomes the news. "The award validates the value-added services that we have been constantly delivering to the global investment community in the past six years since our inception. This recognition is also in line with The Stock Exchange of Hong Kong's continuous drive towards promoting online disclosure for listed companies to increase market efficiency." said Ms Chow.

"Going forward, we will continue with our mission to be the Internet platform for Asia Pacific listed companies to communicate effectively with the global investment community, to focus on helping companies augment and promote their corporate visibility, image and transparency, and to enable global investors to make more informed investment decisions." Ms Chow said.

With offices established in Australia and Singapore, irasia.com has a wide reach of viewing audiences. 64% of its viewers come from Hong Kong, Singapore and the rest of Asia, with US and Europe accounting for 21%. The pageview in December 2001 is around 6 million. Over 7,000 users have registered for irasia's free email alert service, receiving timely and vital IR Announcements. Registrants include affluent, well-educated, and computer-literate professional consisting of institutional and independent investors, shareholders, corporate and business professionals from around the world. All of them share a common interest in accessing timely and authoritative information on companies in the Asia Pacific region.

Approximately half of the Hang Seng constituent blue-chip companies are already using irasia.com's services. Other of its Hong Kong clientele consists of companies from both the main board and the GEM board, including red-chip and H-share companies.

"irasia.com's approved status further enhances us as a one-stop solutions partner for Hong Kong listed companies in IR communications. We are excited about offering this newly added service to the benefit of our Hong Kong clients", added Ms Angel Lai, irasia.com's Country Manager for Hong Kong. "Unedited primary company information represents one of the most extensive sources of information available to investors, analysts and researchers. Institutional and retail investors alike, can rely on us for quick and easy access of information crucial to their investment decision-making," said Ms Lai.

Rated by *TIME* magazine as one of the best sites for "Research to make Investment Decisions" and selected by *FORBES* magazine as "Best of the Web" and best for e-mail alerts for earnings reports and press releases, irasia.com is the premier online source for primary investor relations information on hundreds of listed companies spanning from China, Hong Kong, Singapore to Australia. Recognised for its timely, authoritative and quality content, irasia.com is widely quoted and mentioned in many international financial publications, including the *Asian Wall Street Journal*, *Far Eastern Economic Review*, *International Herald Tribune*, *Global Fund News*, *Equities Quarterly of Reuters*, and *TheASSET*. It is arguably the best-known web-based IR information source on Asia Pacific companies among professional investors and financial institutions in the world. Selected contents are also redistributed to financial service providers and hundreds of web sites.

The government approval announcement was made by the Information Services Department of the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, under Notices in its Gazette on January 25, 2002. The approval was given by the Chief Secretary for Administration, under the following ordinances:

1. Section 5(3)(ii) & (iii) of the Transfer of Businesses (Protection of Creditors) Ordinance (Cap 49)
2. Section 71A(3)(a) of the Companies Ordinance (Cap 32); and
3. Section 24(3)(a) and 25D(4)(a) of the Insurance Companies Ordinance (Cap 41)

About irasia.com Limited

Launched in 1996, irasia.com (pronounced I-R-Asia), stands for Investor Relations Asia. irasia.com aggregates, organizes, and disseminates Asia Pacific IR information, to bring listed companies and investors closer together. Our website <http://www.irasia.com> is Asia Pacific's leading online resource for timely primary IR information, which include annual & interim reports, results announcements, prospectuses and circulars, press releases, corporate profiles, and contact information.

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For further information, please contact:

Alison Chow

CEO, irasia.com Ltd.

Tel: (852) 2831-9792 Fax: (852) 2838-0996

Email: alison@irasia.com

Henry Chua / Maggie Chan

Ketchum Newscan Hong Kong

Phone: (852) 3141-8082/ 3141-8063 Fax: (852) 2510-8199

Email: henry.chua@knprhk.com/ maggie.chan@knprhk.com