



ACM-HK Quarterly Newsletter Vol 3, Issue 1 and 2 April 1998.

Edited by J. To, Secretary of ACM-HK.

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2. Chairman's Message

The year 1997 has been an extraordinary year for the people in Hong Kong. Together with many of you, we witnessed Hong Kong's historical moment of its return to the motherland. We are glad to see that the Government of the new Special Administrative Region attaches importance to Information Technology. We now have our own functional constituency and are able to elect our representative in the Legislative Council. The Broadcasting, Culture and Sport Bureau has been reorganized and becomes the Information Technology and Broadcasting Bureau. It formulates and develops policies for the facilitation of information infrastructure and the promotion of IT in the Special Administrative Region. As the government invests in popularizing information technology in primary and secondary education, we are very optimistic that Hong Kong will play a leading role in IT in the beginning of the next century, when the Science Park is due to open.

The year 1997 has also been a year of rapid development for ACM-HK under the leadership of the past Chairman Prof. Dik Lee and the Chapter's executive committee. A member of the Information Technology Joint Council, ACM-HK has participated in the successful lobbying for having this new functional constituency. The number of members grew very quickly and we have now extended our membership to serve ACM members in Macao. We have opened the new membership category of Professional Member to recognize the professional qualification of our members. The Scholastic Programming Contest held at the Hong Kong Polytechnic University has been very successful, in which 13 teams from tertiary institutions in Hong Kong and Macao participated, including the University of Macao, which came for the first time. The Chapter co-organized, with the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, short courses on IT and the response has been enthusiastic. The Chapter also

actively sponsored several international academic conferences, including the Joint 1997 Asia Pacific Software Engineering Conference and International Computer Science Conference, which was held in Hong Kong for the first time.

The Chapter needs support from all our members in order to continue to be successful in 1998. This year we shall hold the Intercollegiate Scholastic Programming Contest in the Hong Kong Baptist University. We shall continue to offer short courses and again the Hong Kong Baptist University will be our partner. We are going to organize a PG Day in the campus of the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, which will be a mini conference for all the research students in Hong Kong to present their work. Your support is essential to the success of these events.

Finally, I would like to thank you all for your support in the past years. If you have any suggestions, queries, or comments, you could always contact any one of our executive committee members, or simply send an e-mail to acm-hk@cse.cuhk.edu.hk.

Prof. Ho-fung Leung
Chairman
Association for Computing Machinery Hong Kong Chapter

3. 1997/98 ACM-HK EXCO and officers

Ho-Fung Leung	Chapter's Chairman	(lhf@cse.cuhk.edu.hk)
C.S. Huang	Chapter's Co-Chairman & Chairman of Program Committee	(cshuang@comp.hkbu.edu.hk)
Chris Yang	Chapter's Treasurer & Co-chairman of the SPC Committee	(yang@cs.hku.hk)
Jimmy To	Chapter's Secretary	(enjimmy@polyu.edu.hk)
James Kwok	Chairman of the Publicity Committee	(jkwok@usthk.ust.hk)
K.F. Wong	Chairman of the Liaison Committee	(kfwong@se.cuhk.edu.hk)
Dik Lee	Co-chairman of the Education Committee	(dlee@cs.ust.hk)
James Kwok	Co-chairman of the SPC Committee	(jamesk@comp.hkbu.edu.hk)

4. Conferences to be co-sponsored by ACM-HK

The following international conferences are being organised in cooperation with ACM-HK. Members will likely enjoy reduced registration rates.

- * 3rd International Workshop on Information Retrieval with Asian Languages (IRAL'98), Singapore, 15-16 October, 1998
- * 18th International Conference on Computer Processing of Oriental Languages (ICCPOL'99), University of Tokushima, Japan, March 29-31, 1999.
- * 1999 International Conference on Advanced Database Applications (DASFAA'99), April, Taiwan.

5. Short Course : *Java Programming and Electronic Commerce*

Last year, ACM-HK, in co-operation with HKUST, offered a highly successful 2-day workshop on Java Programming and Electronic Commerce, with 30 attendees coming from various companies. This year, we shall repeat the course but with new materials such as JDBC and Java Electronic Commerce included. The course is jointly sponsored by ACM-HK, the Department of Information & Systems Management of HKUST, and the Department of Computer Studies, HKBU. This course is specifically tailored for IT professionals who are

responsible for the development and deployment of Internet based information services, as well as end-users of future business applications.

Java and electronic commerce have become two of the most talked-about technologies in the industry for the past few years. Since E-commerce is still searching for common ground among all its potential payment methods, transaction protocols, and systems on both the client and server, Java's pledges of "write once, run anywhere" is a potential answer to the diversity facing E-commerce. A new development by Sun - Java Electronic Commerce Framework (JECF) - offers a common user interface for purchasing, secure databases for local storage, and consolidation of commerce instruments (e.g., credit cards). Accessing database management systems through Java DataBase Connectivity (JDBC) is another vital component in electronic commerce development. This workshop aims to provide the basic training, skills and information for corporate users to develop Electronic Commerce on the web using Java, and introduce relevant Java packages, such as JDBC and JECF.

This two-day workshop encompasses both lecture sessions and hands-on laboratory sessions. Apart from introducing different business models of Electronic Commerce on the web, this workshop emphasize extensive Java-based hands-on application development experience in a friendly supervised computer laboratory. At the end of the first day, workshop attendants would have learnt some trading models on the Internet and should have understood the basics of the Java language, and be aware of some development tools for Java. They will have an opportunity to develop their own interactive web pages which integrate information in text, graphics, photos and moving text in Java. At the end of the second day, workshop attendees would have learnt how to retrieve data from a DBMS, for example MS-Access and put up the data on the web using JDBC. The Java Electronic Commerce Framework (JECF) for developing electronic commerce applications will be covered as well.

With much success in the short courses we offered last year, we are very fortunate to have Dr. Sai-Ho Kwok and Professor Dik Lee again as our instructors this year.

Dr. Sai-Ho Kwok is an Assistant Professor of the Department of Information and Systems Management at the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKUST). He has supervised a good number of IS projects on Java. He was a co-instructor for the full-semester Java programming course for business school students in 1996 and was the main instructor for ACM-HK's short courses on Java and electronic commerce in 1997.

Prof. Dik Lee is a Reader of the Computer Science Department at the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology. He had served as consultant for many computer companies in Hong Kong and in the United States. Prof. Lee is the Director of the World Wide Web Index and Search Engine (WISE) project, which led to the development and commercialization of a bilingual search engine for the World Wide Web. He taught and co-taught several industrial courses on Java and has led several projects on Java-based search systems for the Internet. He was the Chairman of ACM Hong Kong Chapter in 1997.

Topics to be covered :

- Electronic Commerce on Internet
- Java Programming Overview
- Java development tools
- The minimum Java application
- Object Oriented Concepts in the Java Language
- JDBC hands-on session – connection between JDBC program and MS-Access database

Exceptions
Java Applet
Java Graphical User Interface in JDK
Development of Electronic Commerce - JECF

With the courtesy of the Department of Computer Studies of Baptist University, the venue has been chosen on the convenient campus of the Baptist University which is within walking distance from the Kowloon Tong stations. The workshop will be conducted on two consecutive Saturdays, tentatively on the 19th and 26th of September this year.

Pre-approval from the New Technology Training Scheme (NTTS) for this course has been sought. If approval is granted, 75% of the course fee can be reimbursed for those participants who satisfy the NTTS requirements.

6. Scholastic Programming Contest and Checker Competition

To promote a spirit of friendship and courtship among students from the institutes, ACM-HK will hold the Seventh Scholastic Programming Contest (SPC) and a Chinese checkers competition at the Hong Kong Baptist University on June 27, 1998.

Our Programming Contest is modeled after the ACM programming contest in the United States. Up to two teams, each consisting of four students, are invited from each institutes in Hong Kong and Macao. The contest is going to last for four hours. The teams will be given a set of programming problems drawn from a set contributed by all participating institutions. The team which takes the least time to solve all the given problems or solves the largest number of problems within the time limit wins. Most of the problems can possibly be solved by short programs, but challenges the ingenuity and creativity of the contestants.

7. Postgraduate Research Day

The First ACM Hong Kong Postgraduate Research Day, featuring presentations, poster sessions, and an invited speaker, will be held at Hong Kong University of Science and Technology on October 10, 1998.

The purpose of the Research Day is to give Hong Kong postgraduate students in computer science an opportunity to talk about their own research and to see what other postgraduate students in Hong Kong are working on.

Conference presentations will be held in four parallel sessions, while posters will be exhibited during the day in the HKUST Academic Concourse. Proceedings with abstracts of all talks will be distributed on the research day and will be subsequently available for purchase from ACM. Electronic proceedings with extended abstracts will be provided by the ACM digital library (<http://www.acm.org/dl/>).

Research students from various departments of local universities are invited to contribute and participate. A total of 100 papers will be selected for poster presentations. Out of these, 48 papers will be selected for oral presentations. The program committee shall consist of faculties from all participating universities.

While ACM-HK has committed to finance this novel event, we do welcome sponsorships from organizations and the industry. Potential sponsorships can be directed to the ACM-HK Treasurer, Dr. Chris Yang (Department of Computer Science, The University of Hong Kong, Pokfulam Road, Hong Kong. Email: yang@cs.hku.hk).

When and where to submit papers :

A one-page abstract and an extended abstract (of up to 10 pages) must be received in Postscript format by midnight, June 15, 1998. Papers have to be submitted separately for each of the six universities, to one of the following Email addresses:

acmgrad@cse.cuhk.edu.hk
acmgrad@comp.hkbu.edu.hk
acmgrad@cs.hku.hk
acmgrad@cs.cityu.edu.hk
acmgrad@comp.polyu.edu.hk
acmgrad@cs.ust.hk

Important dates :

June 15	Paper submission deadline; late submissions will not be considered.
August 1	Notification of acceptance or rejection of papers.
October 10	Postgraduate Research Day.

Updates to this event will be further announced in <http://www.cs.ust.hk/pg98/>.

8. Top figures from ACM-Headquarter visited Hong Kong in March.

1998 is a year of significant international outreach for the ACM, as its Executive Committee hosted a series of planning and development meetings this March in Hong Kong and Mainland China. Through meetings with computing professionals, government officials, students, and academicians ACM has gained a good picture and understanding of the current state of computing in the Pacific Rim.

The rapid growth of ACM's international membership made this trip particularly timely to identify and develop new programs to better meet the needs of information technology professionals in the Far East. In addition to meetings with key Hong Kong and mainland China contacts. Representatives from Australia, India, Japan, South Korea, Malaysia, New Zealand, Singapore, Taiwan, and Thailand also participated in some meetings.

In this visit, the ACM committee actively explored ways by which ACM can cooperate in technical activities throughout the region, and, processes by which technical information can be made more readily available to information professionals.

The events of the visit are summarized below :

In Hong Kong :

1. A meeting with the Hong Kong Institute of Electronics, Information Technology Division on possible joint ventures in the future.
2. A meeting with the Hong Kong Computer Society.
3. Visiting The Chinese University of Hong Kong and giving an ACM seminar on "Fighting Computer Viruses"
4. Visiting the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology and giving an ACM seminar on "The design of low power, high-performance architectures".
5. A business meeting with the ACM Hong Kong Chapter.
6. An meeting with the ACM Pacific Rim chapters (attended by ACM leaderships from Australia, Hong Kong, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, New Zealand, Singapore, Taiwan and Thailand).

In Beijing :

1. A meeting with officers of the China Computer Federation (CCF).
2. Dinner with the Beijing SIGMOD leaderships.

3. A meeting with the Chinese Association for Science & Technology and the Chinese Institute of Electronics.
4. An open session with CCF members and a presentation by ACM President Chuck House on "the ACM97 conference: The next fifty years of computing".
5. An ACM Technical presentation at the Tsinghua University on "Trends in computer education."
6. A Meeting with faculty and students of the Tsinghua University.
7. A Meeting with the Network Center of the Chinese Academy of Science.
8. Dinner with the heads of Computer Science departments from universities in Beijing.

In Shanghai :

1. An open discussion session with the Shanghai Computer Society (SCS).
2. Meeting faculty and students of the Shanghai Jiatong University.
3. Meetings with the XiangJiang Computer Group and other Shanghai organizations.

9. 96/97 Financial Report

Description	Debit	Credit
Opening Balance		76,592.79
Membership Fee Contributions		1,680.00
Annual Meeting Banquet - 96	17,500.00	800.00
Annual Meeting Banquet - 97	4,645.00	
Newsletter	3,289.60	
Scholastic Programming Contest	24,382.90	
Activities for Information Technology Functional Constituency	4,085.00	
Short Courses		63,873.34
General Expense	4,320.30	
Seed Money of Joint APSEC'97 and ICSC'97 - Hong Kong SECT of IEEE (Computer Chapter)	50,000.00	
Total	108,222.80	142,946.13
Balance		34,723.33