

Message by ITSC Chairman Mr Robert Chew



This year's Synthesis Journal continues our tradition of sharing with you some of the standards that ITSC members are working on, such as **biometrics, elearning, information exchange, multimedia representation, RFID and security.**

2006 is an exciting and memorable year for our infocomm industry. This year we celebrate 25 years of Singapore's infocomm achievements since the inception of the first National Computerisation Plan in 1981; and saw the launch of the Intelligent Nation 2015 (iN2015) Masterplan which aims to enable Singapore to harness infocomm to transform businesses and to enhance the lives of her people over the next decade. The Masterplan will impact our nation infrastructurally, economically and socially.

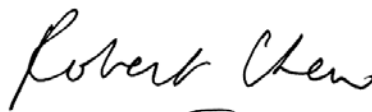
Amidst the buzz, the IT Standards Committee (ITSC) continues to make inroads into the international standards fora, including taking leadership positions in committees in the areas relating to smart cards, IT security and biometrics. ITSC has also taken stock of our achievements over the past few years and has already started planning our direction for the coming 7th term of office beginning next April. ITSC will gear its future standardisation efforts towards supporting the iN2015 vision and will collaborate with the private and public sectors, leverage our members' diverse knowledge and create innovative standards to help realise the iN2015 initiatives.

The world economy is becoming ever more digital. New infocomm technologies and applications such as digital media, e-payments, IPTV and VoIP are changing how we work, connect and spend our leisure time. These applications, however, will not reach their full potential unless they and their supporting infrastructures can be produced cost effectively and are fully interoperable. Standards play a key role in enabling this.

In addition, standards have been used by many countries as platforms to support innovation, facilitate technology adoption, improve productivity and promote international trade, thus contributing to the economic well being of the nation. For example, the study on 'The Empirical Economics of Standards' published in June 2005 by the UK Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) and the British Standards Institution (BSI) showed that standards contribute £2.5bn per annum to the UK economy. This shows standards matter.

This year's Synthesis Journal continues our tradition of sharing with you some of the standards that ITSC members are working on, such as biometrics, elearning, information exchange, multimedia representation, RFID and security. In addition, we received overseas contributions addressing interoperability, the effectiveness of participation in international standards work and standards in health-care IT. I hope these articles will give you a glimpse of IT standards work in Singapore and make you aware of the role of standards and its contribution to Singapore.

Finally, I would like to express my appreciation to A/P Chia Liang-Tien, Clement, Chief Editor of the Journal, our TC members and overseas friends for their invaluable contribution to this year's Journal. Their enthusiasm, dedication and effort to share with us their knowledge of and experience with infocomm standardisation have brought about another successful issue of the Synthesis Journal. Thank You!



Mr Robert Chew
Chairman
Information Technology Standards Committee