



Message by ITSC Chairman - Mr Robert Chew

Standards forms an important component of our infocomm industry but many think this is a boring subject and sometimes even irrelevant although most of the time we use standards unknowingly. So, to show the value of standards and at the same time instill some fun into infocomm standardisation in Singapore, the IT Standards Committee (ITSC) recently organised the code::XtremeApps:: Programming Competition 2008.

The competition was a great success and attracted lots of participation from the schools and working professionals. More importantly it showed that infocomm standards, such as the Web standards, can help programmers develop innovative applications that are interoperable and exportable; they form the foundation of many of the infocomm systems we use today.

The Synthesis Journal is a more traditional means of informing our industry that standards matter. Nonetheless, the topics covered are just as exciting. The Journal highlights the latest technology and standards developments. In this year's journal, we have write ups on the QR code, a 2-dimensional barcode standard that is being adopted by the healthcare and airline industries; on how Web 2.0 and Service Oriented Architecture are changing the enterprise and Internet landscape; on e-IDs which are increasingly being used to secure access to the many infocomm systems and services; and many more.

A lot is happening in the infocomm industry and many exciting applications and services are on the horizon. I hope the Synthesis Journal will give you a glimpse of the future and a better understanding of the importance of infocomm standards.

I would like to thank the Chief Editor, Mr Daniel Wee, Council Member of the ITSC, for his time and effort to make the Synthesis Journal 2008 a success, the ITSC TCs for their continuous support and our specially invited overseas friends for their contributions to the Journal.

“Some time back, Nicolas Carr wrote a book ‘Does IT Matter?’ which generated a lot of debate in the infocomm industry. Similarly, we asked ourselves, “Does Standards Matter?”

Mr Robert Chew
Chairman
Information Technology Standards Committee

Robert Chew

