



HONG KONG PUBLIC KEY INFRASTRUCTURE FORUM

The Hong Kong PKI Environment

Annual Update to the Asia PKI Consortium

Presented at the **Asia PKI Consortium Annual General Assembly & Steering Committee Meeting**

Regulatory framework · Recognized Certification Authorities · Digital identity

What this session covers

01



PKI framework in Hong Kong

The Electronic Transactions Ordinance and the Voluntary CA Recognition Scheme, now under the Digital Policy Office.

02



Recognized Certification Authorities

How CAs are recognized — and a newly recognized CA in Hong Kong: HKCA.

03



iAM Smart in 2026

Scale, adoption and the 2026 roadmap for Hong Kong's digital identity platform.

04



Cross-boundary & outlook

Mutual recognition, interoperability and the road ahead for digital trust.

LEGAL & REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

The foundation: Electronic Transactions Ordinance

The **Electronic Transactions Ordinance (Cap. 553)** gives electronic records and electronic signatures the same legal status as their paper counterparts, and establishes a **Voluntary CA Recognition Scheme** to build public confidence in electronic transactions.



Legal equivalence

Electronic records and signatures recognised on par with paper.



Recognition scheme

Commercial CAs may apply on a voluntary basis; recognition granted only to standards acceptable to Government.



Government transactions

Where a Government entity is involved, a digital signature supported by a recognized certificate is required.

AT A GLANCE

2000

ETO enacted, establishing Hong Kong's e-transaction legal framework

Jan 2024

Most recent update to the Ordinance

DPO

Now administered by the Digital Policy Office /
Commissioner for Digital Policy

CERTIFICATION AUTHORITIES

An expanding recognized CA community

Certification Authorities in Hong Kong gain recognition either by virtue of the Electronic Transactions Ordinance, or on application under its Voluntary CA Recognition Scheme.



By virtue of the ETO

Recognition conferred directly under the Electronic Transactions Ordinance.



Voluntary CA Recognition Scheme

Commercial CAs may apply; recognition granted only to standards acceptable to Government.



NEWLY RECOGNIZED CA

HKCA

Hong Kong's recognized CA community now includes a new Certification Authority — Hong Kong Certification Authority — reinforcing the trust services available to businesses and citizens.

NEW RECOGNIZED CA

Spotlight: **HKCA**

A newly recognized Certification Authority in Hong Kong, expanding choice and capacity within our trust ecosystem.



Recognized status

HKCA joins Hong Kong's community of recognized Certification Authorities under the ETO framework.



Trust services

Issuance of digital certificates supporting digital signatures and authentication for electronic transactions.



Wider access

More choice for businesses and citizens, and added resilience across the PKI ecosystem.



Ecosystem impact

Strengthens Hong Kong's digital trust services and supports interoperability goals across the region.

Presenter to confirm HKCA specifics — full legal name, recognition date, certificate profiles and services.

DIGITAL IDENTITY

"iAM Smart": Hong Kong's digital identity platform

Launched in December 2020, "iAM Smart" gives residents a single, trusted digital identity to log in, auto-fill forms and digitally sign — across government and commercial services.



4.2M+

registered users



1,400+

services connected



Dec 2020

platform launch

CORE CAPABILITIES



Authentication



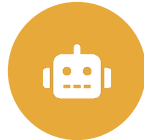
Digital signing



"e-ME" form filling

HEADLINE UPDATE

"iAM Smart" in 2026: what's new



AI Assistant

A built-in AI assistant is planned for delivery by end-2026 to help users navigate services.



Step-up Authentication

An additional verification layer under discussion with financial institutions for high-impact, sensitive transactions.



GovHK Notifications

Migrated fully into iAM Smart from January 2026 — accessible via the mobile app.

OUTLOOK

Where Hong Kong is heading



Growing CA ecosystem

A broadening community of recognized CAs — now including HKCA — strengthening choice and resilience.



Digital identity at scale

iAM Smart deepening into daily life, with corporate identity and AI features arriving through 2026.



Cross-border trust

Continued mutual recognition and interoperability across wider region.



REGIONAL COOPERATION

Cross-boundary trust & interoperability



Recognition of electronic signature certificates

A standing arrangement allows recognized CAs to participate in mutual recognition of electronic signature certificates.



Alignment with APKIC goals

Supports the Consortium's mission of interoperability and mutual recognition of digital signatures across Asian economies.



Why it matters

Hong Kong sits at the intersection of a mature common-law PKI framework and deep integration, to build a practical bridge for cross-border digital trust in the region.

Recognized CAs may apply to the DPO to join the mutual recognition scheme.

Unlock Cross-Border Digital Trust for Paperless Trade

Asia PKI Consortium - Legal Working Group

Advancing Digital and
Sustainable Trade Facilitation



WHAT Legal Working Group (LWG) DOES



Promotes **Interoperability** of PKI Policies & Standards across Asia-Oceania



Studies and **Aligns Laws & Regulations** on **Electronic Signatures**



Facilitates **Public-Private Collaboration** in Region's Trust Frameworks

AN ECOSYSTEM FOR CERTIFICATION AUTHORITIES



**Be Visible to
International
Traders &
Platforms**

**Ensure
Compliance with
Cross-Border
Policy**

**Explore
Recognition
Opportunities**

Clients
(Importers,
Exporters,
Governments,
Banks, Platforms)



**Designated
National CAs /
Trust Service
Providers**



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AN ECOSYSTEM FOR CERTIFICATION AND ALIGN

JOIN → ALIGN

Be Visible to International Traders & Platforms

Ensure Compliance with Cross-Border Policy

Clients (Importers, Exporters, Governments, Banks, Platforms)

→ Asia PKI CA Network

JOIN THE ASIA PKI CA NETWORK TODAY!

CALL TO ACTION

WHO SHOULD JOIN?

- National CAs
- Government CAs
- Commercial CAs
- Trust Service Providers
- Industry Associations

For enquiries: chair@asiapki.org



APKIC Driving the Digital Trust Dialogue at Paperless Trade Week 2026

BANGKOK

Legal Working Group Report



Digital Trust in Action: Global Best Practices for Paperless Trade Infrastructure



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Asia PKI Consortium

Unlock Cross-Border Digital Trust for Paperless Trade

Asia PKI Consortium - Legal Working Group

Advancing Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation

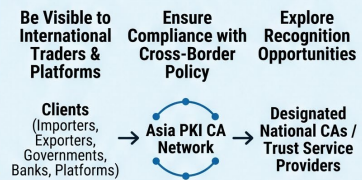


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AN ECOSYSTEM FOR CERTIFICATION AUTHORITIES



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APKIC Driving the Digital Trust Dialogue at
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BANGKOK



Thank you

Hong Kong Public Key Infrastructure Forum

We look forward to continued collaboration across the Asia PKI Consortium.

