PRESS RELEASE

Date: 28 September 2023

Cyberattack on the Computer System of the Council of the Hong Kong Laureate Forum

The Council of the Hong Kong Laureate Forum, the HKLF, suffered a malicious ransomware attack against its computer system yesterday. The attack has resulted in extensive damage to the computer system, causing disruption to its normal operation.

The HKLF is extremely concerned about the incident and has taken immediate actions in response, including shutting down the affected computer equipment, conducting a thorough investigation with the assistance of its external IT support service provider and reporting to the Hong Kong Police Force. The HKLF has also proactively notified the Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data of the incident.

Since the cyberattack, the HKLF has been working closely with its external IT support service provider and it has been advised that the attack occurred outside office hours. It is still accessing the scope and damage of personal data breaches. The HKLF will provide updates via its official website as and when new information is available.

The HKLF expresses its sincere apologies for the inconvenience caused to the Forum and past events participants, and working partners. The HKLF will make every effort to reach out to the possibly affected data subjects in the next few days, urging them to stay vigilant, exercise increased caution and never open or click on suspicious links, emails or messages to ensure cybersecurity.

The HKLF will not pay ransom and it strongly condemns any form of cybercrime. It will also fully cooperate with law enforcement departments in their investigations. Despite being the victim of the cyberattack, the incident will not affect the launching of the inaugural Hong Kong Laureate Forum which will be held on 13-18 November 2023 at the Hong Kong Science Park, as originally scheduled.

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