

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN
THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS OF THE
GOVERNMENT OF THE ITALIAN REPUBLIC AND
THE INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND BROADCASTING
BUREAU OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE HONG KONG
SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGION OF THE PEOPLE'S
REPUBLIC OF CHINA ON COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF
TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION
TECHNOLOGIES.**

The Ministry of Communications of the Government of the Italian Republic and the Information Technology and Broadcasting Bureau of the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China (hereinafter referred to as the "Parties", and each as a "Party"), for the purpose of strengthening the cooperation between the two Parties in the field of telecommunications and information technologies, have reached the following understanding:

Article 1

Acting within the framework of their respective laws and regulations and their respective powers and responsibilities, and in accordance with the principle of reciprocity and mutual benefit, the two Parties have decided to develop and enhance co-operation between Italy and Hong Kong in the field of telecommunications and information technologies as set out in this Memorandum of Understanding, and will promote cooperation among the Administrations, academic institutes and enterprises of both sides.

Article 2

The two Parties have determined to strengthen their cooperation in the field of telecommunications and information technologies especially in the following areas:

- a) modernisation and development of telecommunications, information services and corresponding technologies;
- b) research and technological development;
- c) standardisation;
- d) training; and
- e) other areas which are of mutual interest to the Parties.

Article 3

In order to achieve the purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding, the two Parties have determined to exchange information (for example on

topics of common interest concerning telecommunications and information technologies); to exchange visits and perform other activities of common interest to the Parties; to promote collaboration among the Administrations, academic institutes and enterprises of the Parties in the field of telecommunications and information technologies, especially in the specific areas indicated in Article 2 .

Article 4

The Ministry of Communications of the Government of the Italian Republic, represented by the “Istituto Superiore delle Comunicazioni e delle Tecnologie dell’Informazione”, and the Information Technology and Broadcasting Bureau of the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People’s Republic of China will study and resolve issues arising from the implementation of this Memorandum of Understanding, including appropriate modifications of this Memorandum of Understanding, and may hold meetings (including virtual meetings) where necessary. Each Party will choose its own delegates to such meetings and will bear the costs of its delegation.

Article 5

Should intellectual property rights arise out of the co-operative activities of the two Parties, each Party will determine the allocation of those rights within its jurisdiction and the two Parties will jointly decide on the allocation of rights in third jurisdictions.

Article 6

The two Parties will not disclose or distribute to any third party any information that is supplied in confidence or marked or stated to be confidential or words to that effect by the originating Party in the course of co-operative activities under this Memorandum of Understanding except as, and to the extent, authorised by the originating Party.

Article 7

This Memorandum of Understanding may be amended at any time by mutual consent through an Exchange of Notes between the Parties.

Article 8

This Memorandum of Understanding will come into effect on the date of the receipt of the last notification by which the Parties inform each other of the fulfilment of their respective internal procedures. It will remain in effect for a period of 5 years. It will be automatically renewed for subsequent periods of equal duration, unless either Party notifies the other in writing, three months prior to the expiration of the ongoing five-year period, of its wish to terminate the Memorandum of Understanding

Article 9

The termination of this Memorandum of Understanding will not affect the continuation until completion of those co-operative activities which are in progress at the time of termination of this Memorandum of Understanding, unless otherwise decided by the Parties.

In witness thereof, the undersigned, being duly authorized thereto by their respective Governments, have signed the present Memorandum of Understanding.

Done in Rome, on 23rd May 2002 in two originals, each in the Italian and English languages, both texts being equally authentic.

For the Ministry of
Communications of the Government
of the Italian Republic

For the Information Technology
and Broadcasting Bureau of the
Government of the
Hong Kong Special Administrative
Region
of the People's Republic of China

