



PREFACE III

AFACT Secretariat, Dr. Jyh-Sheng Ke



Powered by the rapid advancement in information technology development, the ubiquitous Internet and easy access to telecommunications facilities, global e-business is thriving. It has since transcended the geographic boundaries of traditional commerce to become one of the primary driving forces of the 21st century's economic growth. Facing these new trends, we must embrace the new challenges and seize the opportunities that e-business brings.

As a member of the AFACT community, Chinese Taipei has been working vigorously in international cooperation, by offering assistance to promote

Internet interoperability, and cooperating with each member economies in the region to accelerate Internet development toward building a sound foundation for e-business to succeed.

In 2000, Chinese Taipei hosted the 18th AFACT Conference, and was elected as the secretariat under AFACT in 2001. It greatly enhanced Chinese Taipei's participation and contribution to the AFACT. In March 2002, the AFACT Secretariat has officially been launched into operation by Chinese Taipei and was granted for a four-year term from 2002 to 2005. Again, in September 2004, Chinese Taipei was nominated and chosen for a second term of the AFACT Secretariat from 2006 to 2009.

In the capacity of performing AFACT tasks on Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business in the Asia-Pacific region, the AFACT Secretariat has successfully organized the first eASIA Week in 2003 and the 2nd eASIA Week in 2004. Both had received worldwide attention and acclamation. The eASIA Week event has accommodated AFACT members to better understand the direction of international e-commerce, and also allowed the AFACT Secretariat to gain recognition from AFACT for its service development through presenting partnership opportunities with other member economies. Among the documentation of progress and development of AFACT, the AFACT Secretariat published the "2004 AFACT Year Book", and will continue to do so. This annual publication may serve as a handbook for AFACT members and a reference for non-members who seek to join the AFACT community.

Certainly, the creation of the annual book could not have been accomplished without support and backing from AFACT members. In hope of accomplishing the mission of the AFACT Secretariat and improving subsequent annual publications, we welcome comprehensive and constructive suggestions relating to all fields of e-Commerce.

Finally, we anticipate that members of the AFACT community will cooperate with each other in promoting the ongoing deployment of e-commerce in Asia, making Asian e-commerce a beacon of success, and facilitating progress and innovation to promote economic equality in the region and around the world.

AFACT Secretariat
President, Institute for Information Industry (III)

Dr. Jyh-Sheng Ke