

Implementation of Unique Business Identifier ("UBI")

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What is Unique Business Identifier (“UBI”) ?

- a number to uniquely identify legal entities.
- adopted in many other economies (such as Singapore, New Zealand, Canada, Philippines, etc) to **reduce possible errors caused by the use of different identifiers** in identifying the same entity.
- **enables communication and exchange of data** across government departments and businesses
- helps governments to **enhance public service delivery** and regulate entities more effectively.
- helps companies to prove their identity to business counterparts more effectively.



What is Unique Business Identifier (“UBI”) ? (Cont’d)

- With the concerted effort of the Inland Revenue Department, the **Business Registration Number (“BRN”)** (i.e. the **first 8 digits of the Business Registration Certificate number**) assigned by the Business Registration Office is adopted as the **UBI** of companies / entities.



When will UBI be implemented in Hong Kong?

- In order to sustain Hong Kong's leading position as an international financial centre, the Companies Registry ("the Registry") undertakes to implement UBI in **two phases** for entities under the administration of the Registrar of Companies
- **Phase One** of a small scale was implemented for **Limited Partnership Funds** ("LPFs") with effect from 1 November 2021.



When will UBI be implemented in Hong Kong?(Cont'd)

- **Phase Two** will be implemented simultaneously with the launch of the Registry's revamped Integrated Companies Registry Information System ("Revamped ICRIS") on 27 December 2023 to cover other types of entities :-
 - **companies** incorporated or registered under the Companies Ordinance (Chapter 622);
 - **open-ended fund companies** incorporated or registered under Part IVA of the Securities and Futures Ordinance (Chapter 571);
 - **limited partnerships** registered under the Limited Partnerships Ordinance (Chapter 37);

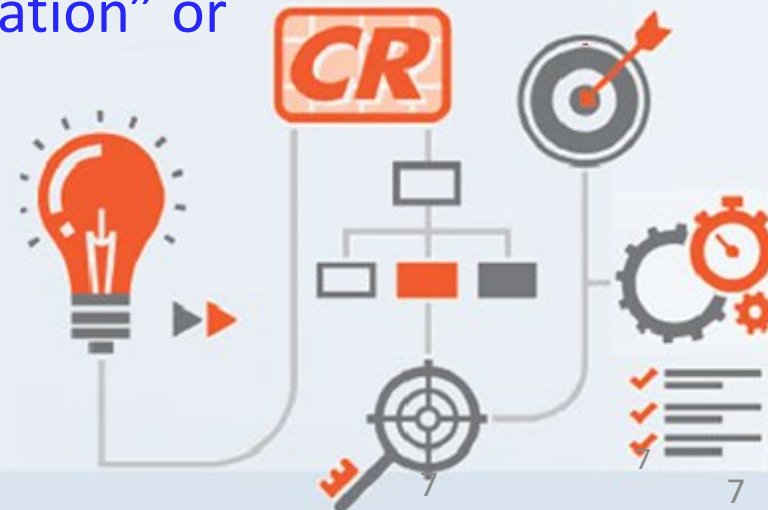


When will UBI be implemented in Hong Kong?(Cont'd)

- **registered trustees corporations** incorporated under the Registered Trustees Incorporation Ordinance (Chapter 306); and
- **other entities** formed or registered under various Ordinances administered by the Registrar of Companies.

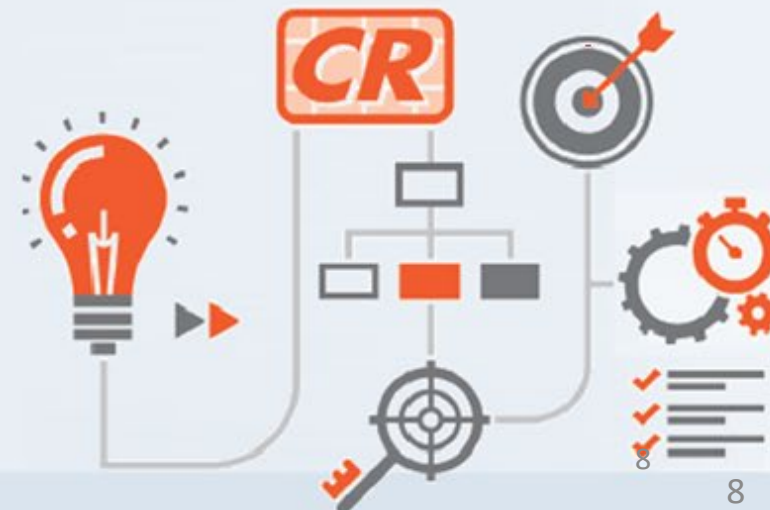
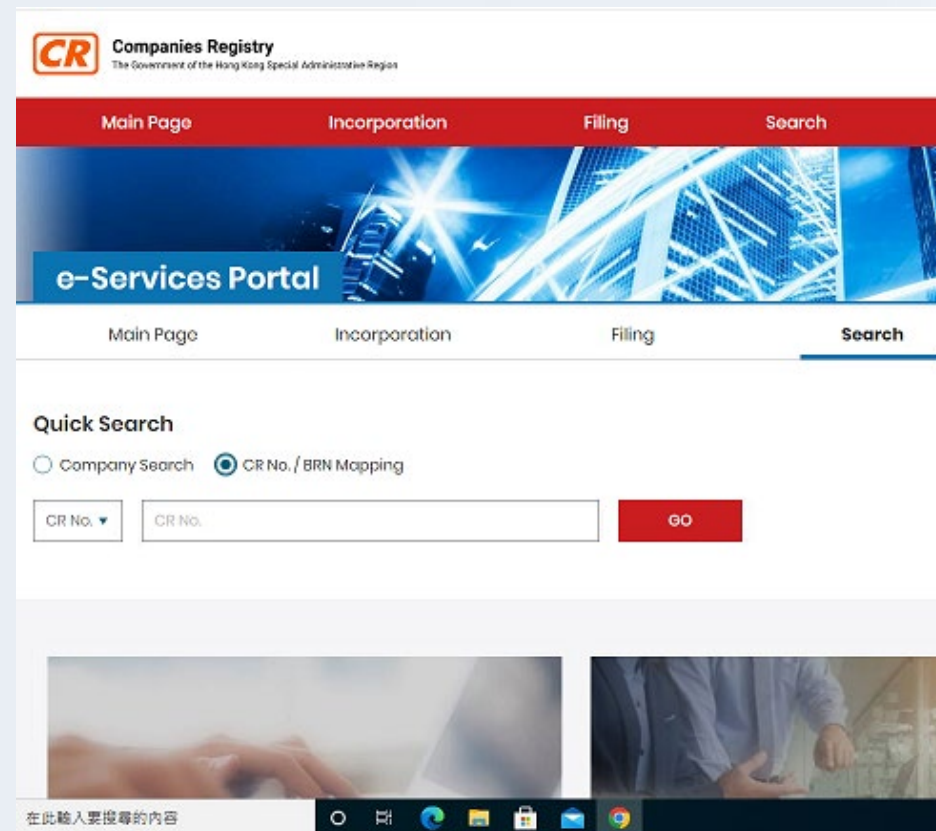
Where will the UBI be used?

- BRN as the new UBI can be used in communication with government departments and businesses.
- Upon the implementation of UBI, the BRN shall be used in filing related specified forms and documents with the Registry.
- BRN will be the key number used by the Electronic Search Services of the Registry for searching and identifying a company or entity.
- For companies incorporated / registered on or after 27 December 2023, the BRN is also adopted as the “No.” on the “Certificate of Incorporation” or “Certificate of Registration of Non-Hong Kong Company” issued by the Companies Registry.



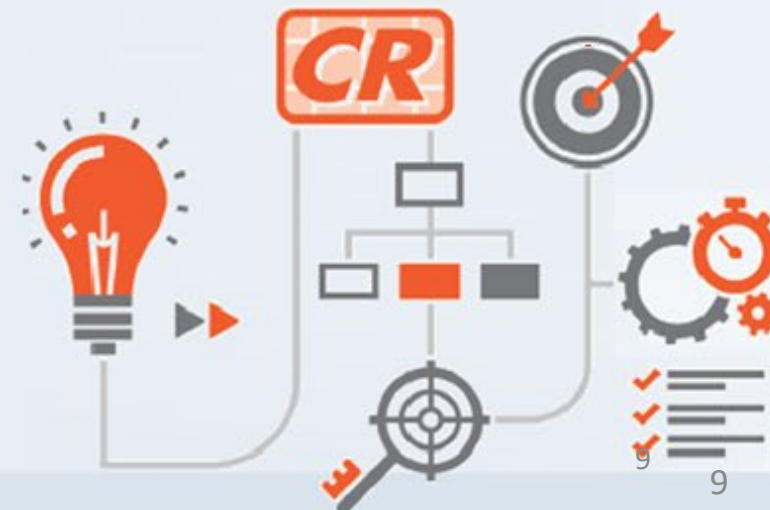
How do I know the UBI of a company / entity?

- Upon the implementation of the second phase of UBI on 27 December 2023, you can **look up** the corresponding BRN of a company / entity by the existing Company Number / CR Number / Company Registration Number and vice versa by using the “**Quick Search > CR/BRN Mapping**” **function** provided in the Electronic Search Services of the Companies Registry.



Will there be any proof for the change in identification number of my company / entity to UBI?

- The Companies Registry will issue a letter to each company informing the company of the change and its BRN before Phase 2 of UBI.
- An Information Sheet evidencing the change to use BRN as an identification number of every company / entity on the Companies Register will be made available for public inspection shortly after 27 December 2023.
- Companies may also apply for a Letter of Confirmation issued by the Companies Registry as evidence after the launch of the Revamped ICRIS.



Thank You



The Next Generation of Integrated Companies Registry Information System

Revamp of the Integrated Companies Registry Information System ("ICRIS Revamp")



公 司 註 冊 處
COMPANIES REGISTRY

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The Need to Revamp ICRIS

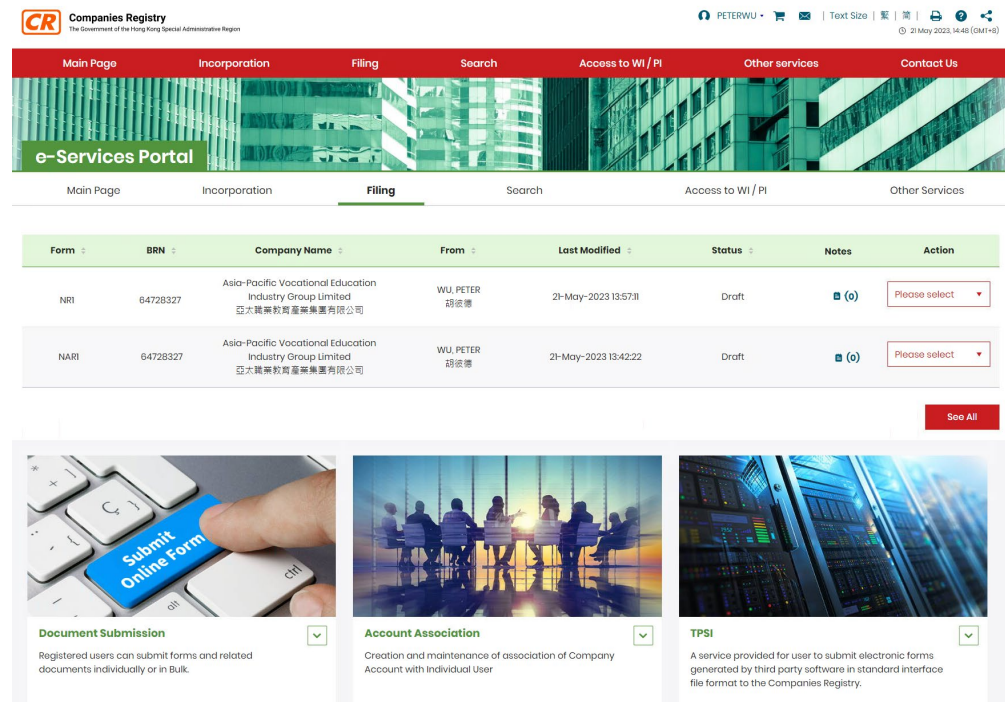
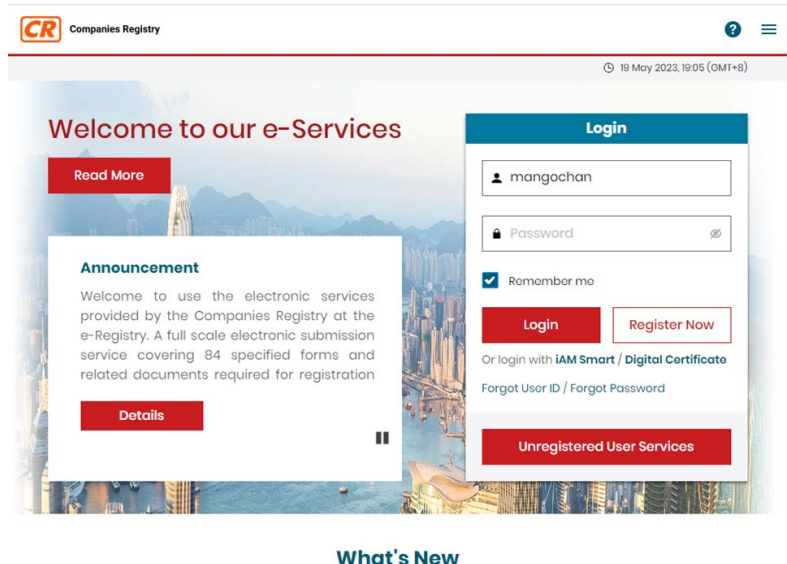
- Existing ICRIS has been in service for over 15 years since its first launch in 2005.
- Keep pace with the rapid technology advancement to meet the increasing workload and bring about improvement to public services.
- The Revamped ICRIS will replace all existing information systems as a mission-critical IT cornerstone of the Registry supporting its core business operations, including registration of companies and statutory returns and provision of public search services.
- The Revamped ICRIS will be launched on 27 December 2023.



New Features of the Revamped ICRIS

Portal Design

- A single integrated online platform that supports the Registry's different electronic services, enabling customer access through a single log-on with a unified user account



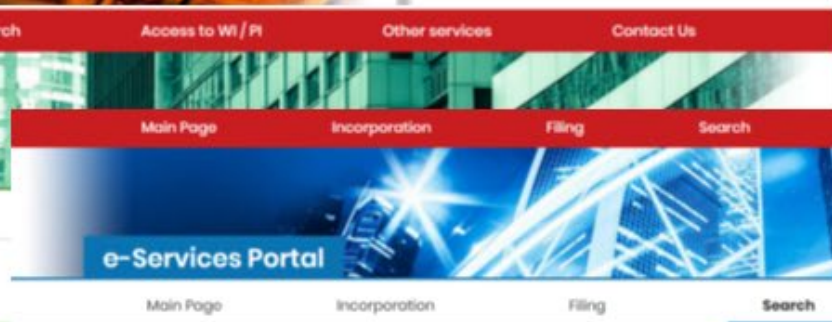
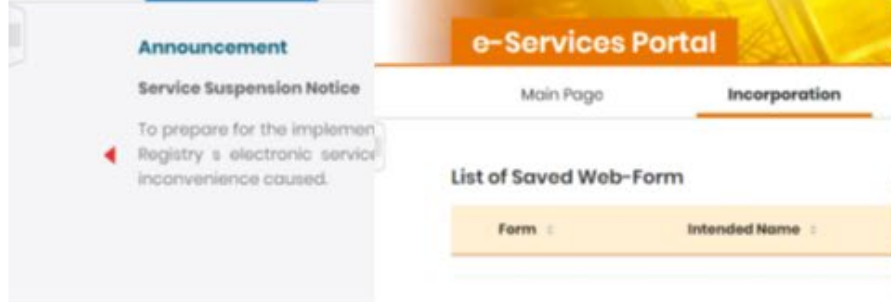
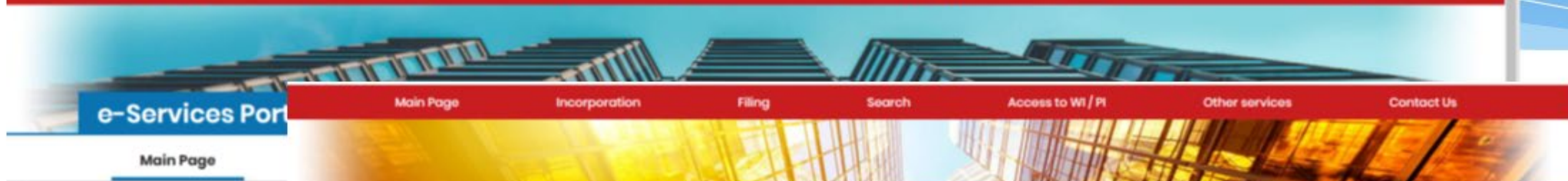
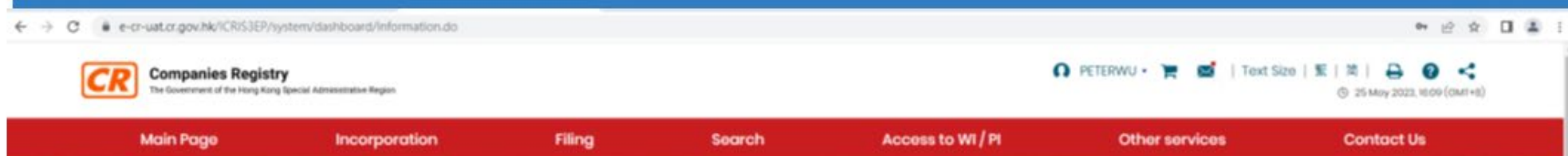
New Features of the Revamped ICRIS (cont'd)

Portal Design (cont'd)

- Registered users can subscribe and access different services with a single unified account

The screenshot displays the Companies Registry website's registration process. At the top, the header includes the CR logo, the text 'Companies Registry' and 'The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region', and utility links for 'Text Size', '繁' (Traditional Chinese), '簡' (Simplified Chinese), and a date stamp '28 Apr 2023, 12:13 (GMT+8)'. A red navigation bar contains links for 'Home', 'What's New', 'Useful Information', and 'Contact Us'. Below this, the 'Registration' section is highlighted. A progress bar shows five steps: 1. Input Account Details (active), 2. Fill in User Particulars, 3. Submit Identity Proof, 4. Review Account Settings, and 5. Acknowledgement. The main content area is titled 'Step 1 - Input Account Details'. It contains several form fields: 'User Type' (a dropdown menu currently showing 'Individual'), 'Services to be Subscribed' (checkboxes for 'e-Filing' and 'e-Search', and radio buttons for 'Principal Account' and 'Subsequent Account'), 'Access to Withheld Information / Protected Information' (checkboxes for various roles like 'A liquidator', 'A public officer or public body', etc.), 'User ID' (a text field with 'WRENWREN' and a 'Check ID validity' link), 'Password' (a text field with 'CR28672585drrmd'), and 'Confirm Password' (a text field with masked characters). At the bottom, there is a checkbox for 'Do you want to receive email reminder message for user account information?'. The footer of the form has 'Cancel', 'Back', and 'Continue' buttons.

New Features of the Revamped ICRIS (cont'd)



COMPANIES REGISTRY ELECTRONIC SEARCH SERVICES Terms and Conditions

Application

- The registered online user ("the Registered User") requests the Registrar of Companies ("the Registrar") and the Registrar hereinafter set out, agrees to provide search services ("e-Search Services") of the Integrated Companies Registry access to the databases of public records of information managed and updated by the Registrar.

e-Search Services

- (a) e-Search Services will, subject to any restriction imposed by law or a court order, enable the Registered User to:
 - access online the databases of public records of information kept by the Registrar;
 - submit orders for and obtain copies and certified copies of documents or information available by the Registrar.

(b) Except for maintenance work, e-Search Services shall generally be provided on a twenty-four-hour basis.

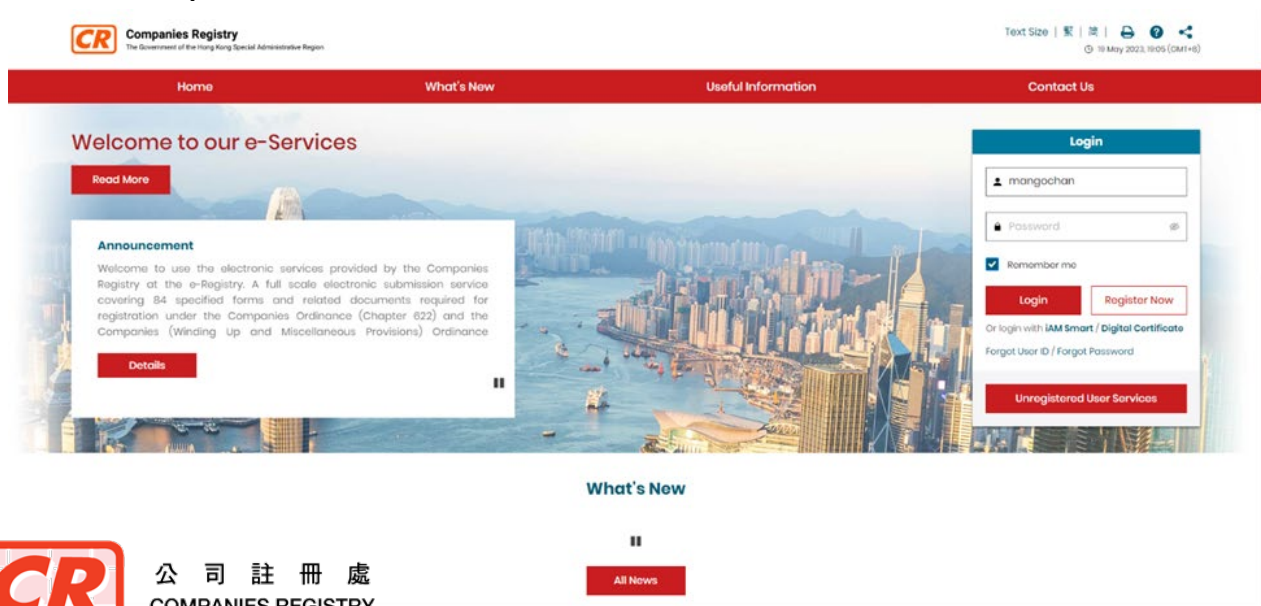


New Features of the Revamped ICRIS (cont'd)

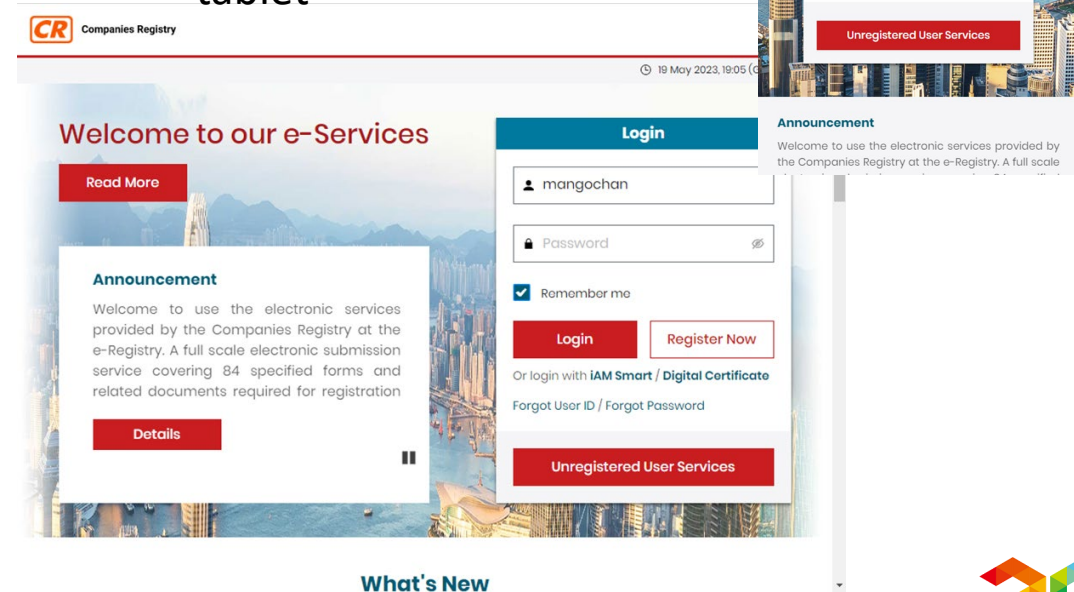
Portal Design (cont'd)

- Responsive web design of e-services portal facilitates the use on desktop and mobile hand-held devices.

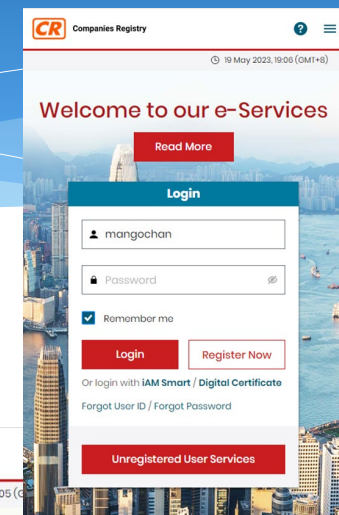
desktop



tablet



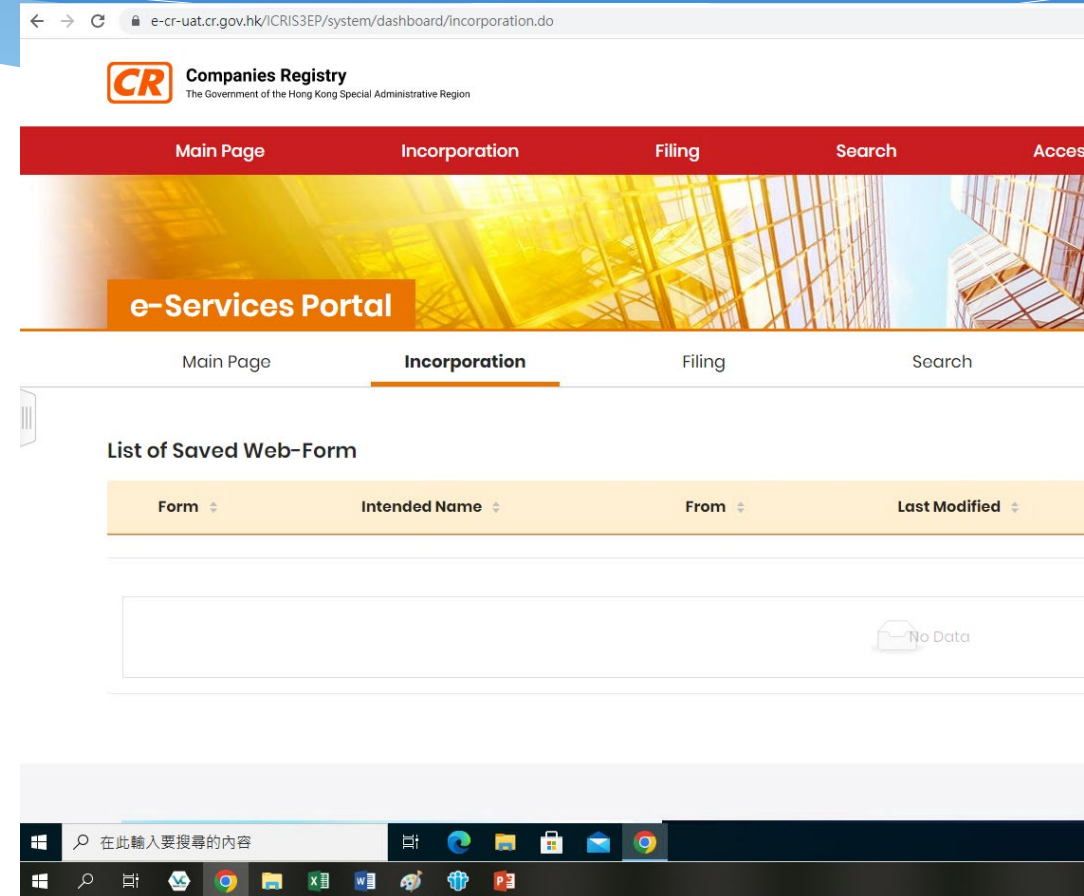
mobile



Electronic Services under the Revamped ICRIS (cont'd)

(1) e-Incorporation

- Arranged as a separate service for easy access



Electronic Services under the Revamped ICRIS (cont'd)

(2) e-Filing Services

- Existing file-based e-forms will be replaced by the web forms which are provided and can be saved on e-filing portal.

The screenshot displays the Companies Registry e-filing portal. At the top, the header includes the CR logo, 'Companies Registry', and 'The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region'. A navigation bar contains links for Main Page, Incorporation, Filing, Search, Access to WI / PI, Other services, and Contact Us. A progress indicator shows four steps: 1. Input Basic Information, 2. Input Details of Change (current step), 3. Sign & Submit, and 4. Acknowledgement.

Step 2 - Input Details of Change

BRN	64728327
English Company Name	Asia-Pacific Vocational Education Industry Group Limited
Chinese Company Name	亞太職業教育產業集團有限公司

Details of Change ⓘ
Please complete item(s) with change(s) only

☒ New Address of Registered Office in Hong Kong ⓘ
(Non-Hong Kong addresses, 'care of' addresses and post office box numbers are not acceptable.)

Flat / Floor / Block etc.

Building

Street / Estate / Lot / Village etc.

District

Region

Effective Date

☐ New Email Address (if applicable) ⓘ

☐ New Hong Kong Contact Telephone Number (if applicable) ⓘ

At the bottom right, there are buttons for Exit, Discard Form, Save, and Save & Next.



Electronic Services under the Revamped ICRIS (cont'd)

(2) e-Filing Services (Cont'd)

- Draft e-forms saved online can be retrieved for subsequent update before submission
- Extended e-submission services to cover the delivery of documents other than specified forms

The screenshot displays the Companies Registry e-Forms Portal. At the top, the header includes the CR logo, 'Companies Registry', and 'The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region'. A navigation bar contains links: Main Page, Incorporation, Filing, Search, Access to WI / PI, Other services, and Contact Us. Below this is a banner for the 'e-Services Portal'. A secondary navigation bar highlights 'Filing' under 'Main Page', 'Incorporation', 'Filing', 'Search', 'Access to WI / PI', and 'Other Services'.

Form	BRN	Company Name	From	Last Modified	Status	Notes	Action
NRI	64728327	Asia-Pacific Vocational Education Industry Group Limited 亞太職業教育產業集團有限公司	WU, PETER 胡彼得	21-May-2023 13:57:11	Draft	0	Please select
NARI	64728327	Asia-Pacific Vocational Education Industry Group Limited 亞太職業教育產業集團有限公司	WU, PETER 胡彼得	21-May-2023 13:42:22	Draft	0	Please select

Below the table, there are three service categories with icons and descriptions:

- Document Submission**: Registered users can submit forms and related documents individually or in Bulk.
- Account Association**: Creation and maintenance of association of Company Account with Individual User.
- TPSI**: A service provided for user to submit electronic forms generated by third party software in standard interface file format to the Companies Registry.

A 'See All' button is located at the top right of the service categories section.

Electronic Services under the Revamped ICRIS (cont'd)

(3) e-Search Services

- Use of Business Registration Number (“BRN”) as the Unique Business Identifier (“UBI”) for searching and identifying companies / entities.
- A quick search function on mapping of unique business identifier and CR number for existing companies

The screenshot displays the Companies Registry e-Search Services portal. The top navigation bar includes links for Main Page, Incorporation, Filing, Search, Access to WI / PI, Other services, and Contact Us. The 'e-Services Portal' banner is prominently displayed. Below the banner, the 'Quick Search' section offers two options: 'Company Search' and 'CR No. / BRN Mapping'. The 'CR No. / BRN Mapping' option is selected, and a search form is shown with 'CR No.' set to '0000023' and a 'GO' button. The search results are displayed in a table with the following data:

CR No. / BRN Mapping	
CR No.	0000023
BRN	00014073
Company Name	HONGKONG LAND COMPANY, LIMITED - THE- 香港置地有限公司

Below the search results, there are three sections for further exploration:

- Companies registered under Companies Ordinance**: Search services provided for companies registered under the Companies Ordinance (Chapter 622).
- Entities registered under Miscellaneous Ordinances**: Search services provided for the entities registered under the following ordinances:
 - Limited Partnership Fund Ordinance (Chapter 637)
 - Registered Trustees Incorporation Ordinance (Chapter 308)
 - Securities and Futures Ordinance (relating to Open-ended Fund companies)(Chapter 57)
 - Miscellaneous Incorporation Ordinances
- Licensed Money Lenders**: Search services provided for Companies / Individuals with Money Lenders Licences under the Money Lenders Ordinance (Chapter 163).

Electronic Services under the Revamped ICRIS (cont'd)

The screenshot displays the Companies Registry e-Services Portal. The top navigation bar includes links for Main Page, Incorporation, Filing, Search, Access to WI / PI, and Other services. The 'Access to WI / PI' link is highlighted. Below the navigation bar, there is a banner for the e-Services Portal. The main content area shows the 'Access to Withheld Information / Protected Information' service, which allows for the application of specified persons for disclosure of the reported full identification numbers and residential address of natural persons being withheld or protected from public inspection. The bottom of the screen shows the Windows taskbar with the search bar and various application icons.

Companies Registry
The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region

PETERWU

Main Page Incorporation Filing Search Access to WI / PI Other services

e-Services Portal

Main Page Incorporation Filing Search Access to WI / PI

Access to Withheld Information / Protected Information

Access to Withheld Information / Protected Information

公司註冊處
COMPANIES REGISTRY

在此輸入要搜尋的內容

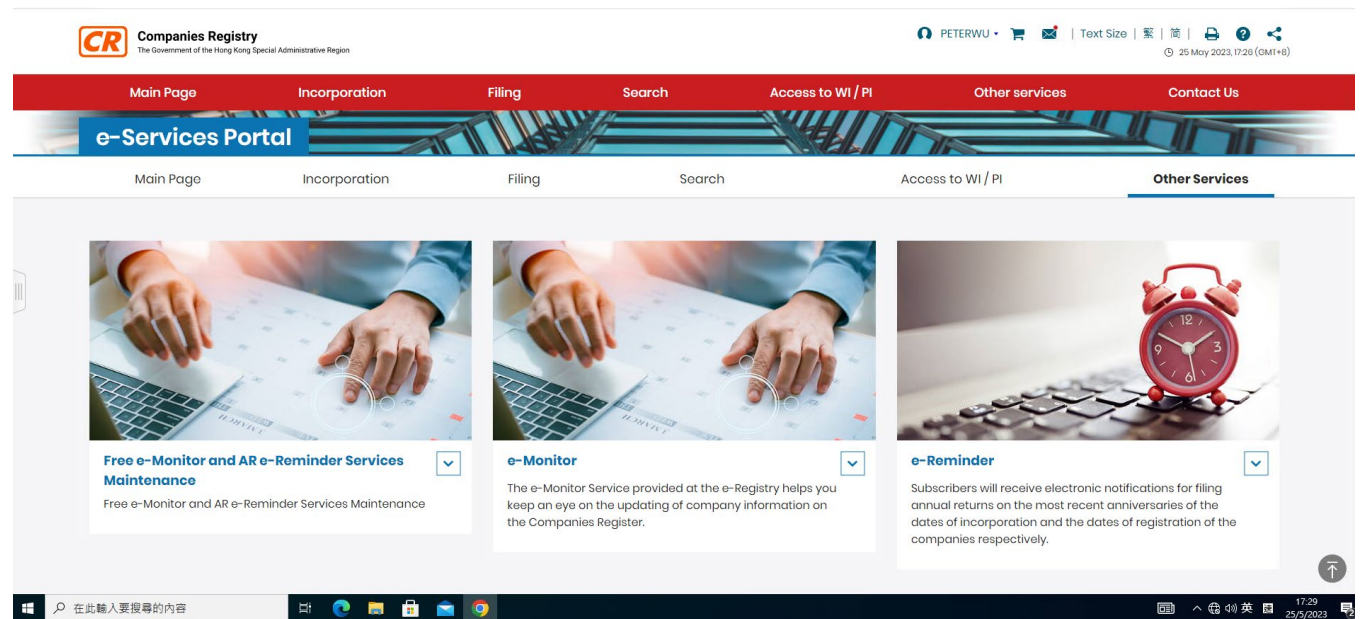
(4) Access to WI/ PI

- Application by specified persons for disclosure of the reported full identification numbers and residential address of natural persons being withheld or protected from public inspection

Electronic Services under the Revamped ICRIS (cont'd)

(5) Other services

- e-Monitoring and Annual Return e-Reminder services will continue to be provided to the registered users
- Annual Return e-Reminder service will also be provided to the unregistered users some time after launch of the revamped system.



The Next Generation of Integrated Companies Registry Information System

Thank You



公司註冊處
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