

In Brief

ICBC signs up with Swift to support remittance business

Industrial and Commercial Bank of China, the country's biggest commercial lender, has signed up with the Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication (Swift) for a new service supporting its global remittance business. The bank will adopt the Swift Workers' Remittance 1.0 solution to extend its remittance business in the United States and South Africa. Belgium-based Swift runs a member-owned worldwide financial communications network that connects more than 8,500

banks, securities institutions and corporate customers in more than 200 countries. Bien Perez

Microsoft enlists three HK firms to supply USB drives

Microsoft Corp, the world's largest software company, has enlisted three Hong Kong firms to supply compatible USB drives that store and help run high-definition television content on new personal computers based on its Windows 7 operating system. These partners and their respective USB products include Shooting Technologies (K-world), Magic-Pro Computer Asia

(Magic-Pro) and EverBest Technologies (AVerMedia and MyGica). Windows 7 and new personal computers running the software will become available to consumers from October 22. Bien Perez

CDC to launch open beta testing of Lord of the Rings

CDC Games will launch the open beta testing of its latest title, *The Lord of the Rings Online: Shadows of Angmar*, early next month ahead of its commercial launch. Its open beta test, which is supported by 2,000 servers and more than 200 storage

systems in 10 major domestic cities, will be capable of supporting more than 300,000 gamers simultaneously playing online. The company holds the exclusive distribution rights in the country for *Shadows of Angmar*, which is the only massively multiplayer online role-playing game based on the works of English author J.R.R. Tolkien. Bien Perez

City University steps up IT training of teachers

The City University of Hong Kong is stepping up training of local primary and secondary school teachers to use information-technology

resources in education with another free workshop slated next month. The workshop is under the university's collaborative blended learning curriculum design and development programme, which is backed by a HK\$2 million grant from the government's Quality Education Fund. The programme aims to equip school teachers with the knowledge and skills they need to make good use of online teaching tools and interactive learning resources, according to Horace Ip Ho-shing, a professor at the university's department of computer science. Bien Perez