

## Foreword



We are now in the Information Age, where success is directly linked to the quality and skills of a reservoir of information technology (IT) manpower. Hong Kong's future prosperity, as a leading player in the information economy and a premier digital city in the globally connected world, requires a focused and dedicated approach in building a skilled and competent IT workforce.

Along with other international economies, we have to address the shortfall in IT manpower resources which has become a global phenomenon.

For the sake of Hong Kong's economic future, we must bridge the gap between supply and demand of manpower resources. That is why we have included the development of a skilled IT workforce as a major strategic area under our 2001 Digital 21 IT Strategy.

This is a subject which involves not just the Government or the IT industry but also the business sector, academic institutions, industry support bodies, and virtually the whole community as the development of IT practically affects all sectors of the economy.

The **Task Force on IT Manpower** has intensively examined measures to bridge the IT manpower gap since its inception in November last year. Within nine months, it has come up with a package of immediate and longer term measures as set out in this Report. The implementation of these measures is crucial to Hong Kong's future economic success. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Task Force members for their hard and dedicated work, and valuable contributions in the preparation of this Report. We are also grateful to the various bodies like universities, chambers of commerce and trade-related organisations which have provided comments to us when we widely consulted them on the subject. Together we shall ensure that Hong Kong will continue to succeed and scale new heights in the global information economy.

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