DIGITAL 21 STRATEGY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Report on the Progress of the Task Forces

Purpose

The Task Forces on E-Government Service Delivery, Industry Facilitation and Digital Inclusion met on 24 April, 19 April and 3 May, respectively. The papers and presentation materials for the meetings are available in the Committee's paper-less system for Members' reference. This paper summarises the main issues discussed.

Task Force on E-Government Service Delivery

Implementation of the Government Cloud Platform

2. Members were briefed on the various Government cloud initiatives, including the proposed Government Cloud Platform. Acknowledging the benefits of implementing the Government Cloud Platform, Members commented that portability and metering would be essential cloud features, and that data security and liability of outsourced service contractors should be considered.

Further development of Mobile e-Government Services

3. Members were updated on the current mobile e-Government services and the development plan in the coming three years. We also briefed Members on a new mobile application, named GovHK Notifications, for Government departments to send notifications on food safety, traffic blockage, air pollution, typhoons and heavy rain, etc. to users. Members stressed the importance of data integrity and consistency among the information disseminated through different government mobile applications.

Enhancement of GovHK and MyGovHK

4.　　　　Members were briefed on the enhancement plan of GovHK, the one-stop portal for Government information and e-services, and MyGovHK, the personalised and account-based platform of GovHK, in 2012-13.　Members welcomed the enhancement, and suggested more publicity and promotion by, for example, encouraging users of e-Tax to sign up for MyGovHK and making consistent the look-and-feel of different e-Government service channels.

Task Force on Industry Facilitation

Implementation of the initial phase of Government cloud platform

5.　　　　Members discussed the Government cloud strategies and initiatives as well as the implementation of the Government cloud platform. Regarding the procurement of cloud services, Members suggested that the Government should develop a transition strategy for existing IT systems to migrate to cloud services and provide guidelines for B/Ds to choose private or public cloud platforms for deploying their applications.

Mainland-related initiatives

6.　　　　Members noted Government's ICT collaboration initiatives with the Mainland in the implementation of the National 12th Five-Year Plan.　We highlighted our recent initiative to set up a Hong Kong expert group on cloud computing services and standards.　The expert group would collaborate closely with the Mainland in the development of cloud standards.

7.　　　　Members discussed the opportunities for local ICT enterprises to enter the Mainland market through leveraging Hong Kong's strengths and services in ICT.　They noted the efforts of Hong Kong Trade Development Council to help Mainland enterprises upgrade and transform their business operations.　As suggested by Members, we should work closely with the Council to create more business-matching opportunities for local ICT undertakings and promote their products in Mainland and overseas markets.

Projects to encourage ICT adoption among SMEs

8.	Members were briefed on two sponsored projects, namely, the "Open Source Location Based Tele-Protection & Mobile Patrol Management System" (named 保安雲 in Chinese), which would utilise mobile and cloud technology to help security companies supervise security guards and receive their location-specific information; and a mobile application (named 物密嘟 in Chinese) which would help local SMEs in the retail industry to disseminate product and promotional information through product barcodes scannable by mobile devices.	Members suggested that the implementer of the retail application add an appropriate disclaimer clause to the system and conduct research on similar brand name already being used in the market to avoid infringing the intellectual property rights of other parties.

IPv6 Promotion

9.	Members were briefed on the details of the sponsored project on the promotion of IPv6 through the set-up of a thematic website, exhibition and seminars, and broadcasting a radio programme. Members noted that the World IPv6 Launch would be held on 6 June 2012.	On that day, participating companies would enable IPv6 permanently for their products and services.	The project would end in June and the thematic website would continue to be updated with the latest development and information on IPv6.

Progress Update on Data Centre Development in Hong Kong

10.	Members welcomed the progress of the facilitation measures for data centre development being implemented by the Government, including the introduction of new guidelines on the goods vehicles parking requirements and measures to encourage the data centre development in industrial buildings or on industrial lots.	Members discussed the provision of resilience for data centres through setting up separate data centres in different regions within or outside Hong Kong.

Task Force on Digital Inclusion

Study on Digital Inclusiveness 2011

11.   OGCIO commissioned a study on ICT adoption among different under-privileged groups.   Members noted the latest statistics in usage, knowledge and access to ICT among these groups, which showed marked improvements over the past three years.   Members noted that nearly 97% of students from low-income families had Internet connection at home, which might account for the lukewarm response to the Internet Learning Support Programme.   Members suggested more measures to encourage wider ICT adoption among the elderly and persons with disabilities, whose ICT take-up rates still lagged behind that of the mainstream community.   They noted, however, that significant improvements among the elderly would be unlikely in the foreseeable future due to their high illiteracy rate and long learning curve.   OGCIO would continue to roll out targeted measures for these two groups.

Web Accessibility Campaign

12.   Members were briefed on progress of the Campaign and the planned activities in 2012-13.   They supported inviting tertiary education institutions to incorporate web accessibility in their ICT curriculum to inculcate professional ethics and foster awareness. Members suggested that OGCIO make use of the many ICT workshops and forums organised by the industry to promote web accessibility.   They opined that the Campaign should also cover the websites of schools and tertiary institutions, as well as online learning websites.

Advice Sought

13.   Members are invited to note and comment on the deliberations of the three Task Forces.

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