

# **DIGITAL 21 STRATEGY ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**Notes of the Meeting held  
on 10 December 2009 at 2:30 p.m.  
in Conference Room, Murray Building**

## **Present**

Mrs Rita Lau, JP	Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development (Chairman)
Mr Gregory So, JP	Under Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development
Mr Jeremy Godfrey	Government Chief Information Officer
Mrs Marion Lai, JP	Director-General of Telecommunications
Mr Geoffrey Woodhead	Assistant Commissioner for Innovation and Technology (Infrastructure Division and Quality Services)
Prof David Cheung	Member
Mr John Chiu	Member
Ms Christine Fang, JP	Member
Dr Chih-lin I	Member
Mr Herman Lam	Member
Mr Sunny Lee	Member
Ms Anna Lin	Member
Mr Joe Locandro	Member
Mr Charles Mok	Member
Mr Daniel Ng	Member
Dr Elizabeth Quat	Member
Prof Vincent Shen	Member
Dr Hon Samson Tam, JP	Member
Dr Winnie Tang	Member
Prof Wong Kam-fai	Member
Mr Peter Yeung	Member

## **In attendance**

Mr Alan Siu, JP	Head (Acting), CreateHK
Mr Stephen Mak, JP	Deputy Government Chief Information

Mr Bassanio So	Officer (Consulting and Operations) Deputy Government Chief Information Officer (Policy and Customer Service) (Acting)
Mr Wallace Lau	Administrative Assistant to Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development
Mr David Leung	Senior Administrative Officer (E-government Service Delivery), OGCI (Secretary)

### **Absent with apologies**

Mr Duncan Pescod, JP	Permanent Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development (Communications and Technology)
Miss Janet Wong, JP	Commissioner for Innovation and Technology
Prof Helen Meng	
Mr Edward Nicol	
Mr Eli Sinyak	

**The Chairman** welcomed Members to the meeting.

### **Agenda Item I: Confirmation of Minutes**

2. The draft minutes of the 16<sup>th</sup> D21SAC meeting held on 27 August 2009 were confirmed.

### **Agenda Item II: Public Sector Information (PSI) for Access and Re-use**

3. **Mr Bassanio So** made a presentation on the topic.

4. **Dr Winnie Tang** declared interest that her company was providing geographic information system software to many Government departments.

5. **Members** strongly supported this initiative and made the following comments:

- (a) This initiative should be expedited if possible.
- (b) Agree with selecting the two pilot cases. D21SAC should continue the discussion on policy level.
- (c) Apart from the two pilot cases, data of other Government departments could also be considered for opening up.
- (d) Apart from read-only PSI, the Government should also look into the possibility of using “wiki” style tools for citizens to help enrich the information. This is similar to the example “WikiCrimes.org”.
- (e) Members strongly supported that PSI should be provided free of charge to the public. Supporting reasons include:
  - (i) PSI could be considered public infrastructure provided by the Government.
  - (ii) If PSI was provided free of charge, it would be fair because everybody could provide value-added services.
  - (iii) Private firms would be more inclined to utilize PSI to create jobs and add social value. This would help the economy.
  - (iv) It would help the creative industry because any person, not only conglomerates, could identify a new business opportunities.
- (f) There should be a mechanism to get more input from the public on how to enhance the value of the PSI. The Government should consider setting up a channel for the

community to request certain types of public information for opening. There should also be clear criteria for the Government to consider the requests.

- (g) PSI might include copyrighted materials sourced from providers or vendors. In this case, the Government would need to address the issue of third party intellectual property (IP).
- (h) The Government might consider whether some Government contents could be classified under Creative Commons<sup>1</sup> and opened up for use by the public with “some rights reserved”.
- (i) The ongoing maintenance costs could be quite substantial - to keep the available PSI accurate and to entertain public requests for providing PSI in different formats.

6. The **Chairman** thanked members for their overwhelming support for this initiative. In response to members’ enquiries, the **Chairman** advised that:

- (a) The scope of PSI should not cover information outside Hong Kong for the time being.
- (b) OGCIO would resolve with the other Government Bureaux/Departments regarding their concerns.
- (c) Legislative process would not be required. We would need to brief the Panel on Information Technology and Broadcasting of the Legislative Council (LegCo) on this new initiative and take into account LegCo Members’ views in taking this initiative forward.

7. The meeting concluded that:

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<sup>1</sup> Creative Commons is a copyright license that defines the spectrum of possibilities between full copyright (all rights reserved) and the public domain (no rights reserved). The licenses help people keep their copyright while inviting certain uses of their work. In other words, it is a “some rights reserved” copyright.

- (a) We would start the two pilot cases to test out the model and resolve any implementation issues.
- (b) We could invite ideas and proposals on the way forward after the pilot.
- (c) The working group on PSI would consider all the associated issues, e.g. the serving, maintenance and updating of data.

8. **GCIO** supplemented that the outstanding issues, e.g. third party IP, would be addressed and resolved during the pilot. After the pilot, **OGCIO** would lay down a set of general guidelines and templates for use by B/Ds.

### **Agenda Item III: Progress Update on Task Forces**

9. **Mr Jeremy Godfrey** introduced the paper.

10. **Members** noted the progress of the task forces. They agreed that the secretariat should take stock of the suggestions made at the three task forces and compile a checklist for discussion at the next meeting.

### **Agenda Item IV: Briefing on CreateHK**

11. **Mr Alan Siu** made a presentation on the topic.

12. **Members** noted the development of creative industries in Hong Kong and made the following comments and suggestions:

- (a) More emphasis should be put on nurturing talents to develop software in Hong Kong.
- (b) There should be encouragement for most local companies

to collaborate with the research arms of local universities.

- (c) The Government could consider organising cross-disciplinary sessions so that the film, audio and music industries could better access the talents available in local universities.
- (d) Regarding the seventh strategic area “Promoting Hong Kong as Asia’s creative capital”, CreateHK should start with benchmarking with related industries in other jurisdictions in Asia. There should be a more systematic way of getting closer to this target.
- (e) CreateHK should consider ways to attract national powerhouses of overseas countries and the Mainland to establish headquarters in Hong Kong;

13. In response to Members’ enquiries, the Government responded that:

- (a) Startup companies could seek assistance through the incubation schemes of Cyberport and InnoCentre for them to grow and prosper in the market.
- (b) We do not suggest setting a target on the creative industry’s contribution to GDP as Hong Kong was not a planned economy.
- (c) CreateHK would benchmark Hong Kong’s situation with other jurisdictions in Asia.

## **Agenda Item V: Operating System and Browser Support**

14. **Mr Bassanio So** introduced the paper.

15. In response to Members’ enquiries, the Government responded that:

- (a) There was a list on GovHK informing people what browsers and operating systems that the GovHK would support.
- (b) In designing the GovHK website and online services, the international standard for the visually impaired would be followed, and relevant associations would be invited to test the online services and the dissemination of Government information before launching.
- (c) A simple mobile version was currently available on GovHK. An enhanced mobile version of GovHK, tentatively named “GovHK Lite”, would be launched in the first quarter of 2010. This mobile version would be a plain version of GovHK for information dissemination and could be easily accessed through mobile devices. A mobile government directory would also be launched soon where people could use their mobile phones to obtain the contact details of government officials and immediately call them with the mobile phones. The strategy on providing mobile government services was being studied.

16. **Members** supported the proposed new policy.

#### **Agenda Item VI: Any Other Business**

17. The **Chairman** suggested and **Members** agreed that starting from the next meeting, D21SAC meetings would go paper-less. The Secretariat would make necessary arrangements with Members for them to access the papers using laptops at the meetings.

**Office of the Government Chief Information Officer  
Commerce and Economic Development Bureau  
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