

DIGITAL 21 STRATEGY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

**Minutes of the Meeting held
on 22 September 2010 at 10:30 a.m.
in Conference Room, 2/F., Murray Building**

Present

Mr Gregory So, JP	Under Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development (Chairman)
Miss Elizabeth Tse, JP	Permanent Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development (Communications and Technology)
Mr Jeremy Godfrey	Government Chief Information Officer
Miss Eliza Lee, JP	Director-General of Telecommunications
Miss Janet Wong, JP	Commissioner for Innovation and Technology
Mr John Chiu	Member
Ms Christine Fang, JP	Member
Mr Herman Lam	Member
Mr Sunny Lee	Member
Ms Anna Lin	Member
Mr Joe Locandro	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

In attendance

Miss Joey Lam, JP	Deputy Government Chief Information Officer (Policy and Customer Service)
Mr Stephen Mak, JP	Deputy Government Chief Information Officer (Consulting and Operations)

Mr Kenneth Cheng	Assistant Government Chief Information Officer (E-government Service Delivery)
Ms Joyce Mok	Assistant Government Chief Information Officer (Digital Economy Facilitation)
Mr Tony Wong	Chief Systems Manager (Digital Inclusion)
Dr Peggy Lau	Senior Administrative Officer (E-government Service Delivery) (Acting), OGCIO (Secretary)

Absent with apologies

Mrs Rita Lau, JP	Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development
Prof David Cheung	Member
Dr Chih-lin I	Member
Prof Helen Meng	Member
Mr Charles Mok	Member
Mr Edward Nicol	Member
Mr Eli Sinyak	Member
Mr Peter Yeung	Member

The Chairman welcomed Members to the meeting and introduced Miss Eliza Lee, the new Director-General of Telecommunications, and Miss Joey Lam, the new Deputy Government Chief Information Officer (Policy and Customer Service).

Agenda Item I: Confirmation of Minutes

2. The draft minutes of the 18th D21SAC meeting held on 29 April 2010 were confirmed.

Agenda Item II: Framework Agreement on Hong Kong/ Guangdong Co-operation Relating to Information and Communications Technology (ICT) Development

3. **The Chairman** invited the following representatives to make presentations on different aspects of this subject:

- (a) **Mr Chaucer Leung**, Head, Regulatory 1, Office of the Telecommunications Authority (OFTA), gave a presentation on cross boundary infrastructure facilities with the aid of the slides at **Annex A**.
- (b) **Ms Joyce Mok**, Assistant Government Chief Information Officer (Digital Economy Facilitation), Office of the Government Chief Information Officer (OGCIO), gave a presentation on e-business with the aid of the slides at **Annex B**.
- (c) **Dr Frank Tong**, Director, Research and Technology Development, Hong Kong Research and Development Centre for Logistics and Supply Chain Management Enabling Technologies, gave a presentation on technology and innovation with the aid of the slides at **Annex C**.

4. **Mr Jeremy Godfrey** said that to help small and medium-sized enterprises to launch their mobile applications in Guangdong, OGCIO had sponsored a programme run by the Hong Kong Wireless Technology Industry Association (WTIA) in cooperation with the Guangdong side. The project began about three months ago. A Mainland partner would help license Hong Kong products and services.

5. On data roaming charges, **Mr Chaucer Leung** advised that the operators in Hong Kong had recently launched services which allowed outbound roamers in Guangzhou to enjoy unlimited usage by paying fixed fees. In addition, single-card-multiple-numbers service had been extended to data usage. He further advised that OFTA had been discussing with Mainland authorities to explore whether there

was any room to reduce the wholesale charges or to offer flat rate charges for Hong Kong telecom operators. However, it might take some time for the Mainland operators to change their pricing structure.

6. **Mr Chaucer Leung** advised that under the “technology-neutral” approach, the provision of Time Division Synchronous Code Division Multiple Access (TD-SCDMA) service in Hong Kong would be up to the network operators. The Government would auction the spectrum and the network operators would choose the technology subject to commercial considerations. While the four 3G operators in Hong Kong had available (albeit limited) spectrum suitable for TD-SCDMA, they had not yet deployed the service. He informed members that the Government might hold another spectrum auction for TD-SCDMA in early 2011.

7. As regards emergency response in the event of cable failure between Hong Kong and Guangdong, **Miss Eliza Lee** advised that OFTA had been discussing the issue with the Guangdong authorities and had prepared a draft cooperation agreement to establish an information exchange mechanism. When it was implemented, both sides could exchange first-hand information during emergencies.

8. In response to members’ suggestions, the **Chairman** advised that the subject of collaboration with Mainland China could be discussed in future D21SAC task force meetings.

Agenda Item III: Digital Inclusion Action Plan for Persons with Disabilities

9. **Mr Tony Wong**, Chief Systems Manager, OGCIO, introduced the paper.

10. **Members** appreciated the initiatives mentioned in the paper and made the following comments and suggestions:

- (a) OGCIIO should consider presenting the paper to the Rehabilitation Advisory Committee under the Labour and Welfare Bureau.
- (b) The project deliverables should be specific to ensure their long-term impact.
- (c) The direction of leveraging the existing platform of District Cyber Centres was supported to expedite action.
- (d) OGCIIO should encourage other bureaux and departments to implement barrier-free websites.
- (e) As the Hong Kong market might be too small for the private sector to provide services for people with disabilities, the Government might consider collaborating with other Cantonese speaking communities, such as Guangdong Province, to create a bigger market.

11. **Miss Janet Wong** advised that the Innovation and Technology Commission (ITC) had recently introduced the new “Innovation and Technology in the Public Sector” programme. ITC had liaised with other government departments and related public organisations, and also discussed with The Hong Kong Council of Social Service (HKCSS) on how to make use of innovation and technology to improve the livelihood of those in need. ITC had started a project with the Hospital Authority on the use of radio frequency identification (RFID) to improve surgery procedures, and had been discussing with HKCSS on the use of RFID in drug stocktaking. In addition, with effect from 2011, ITC would extend the Innovation and Technology Fund vertically such that it would also fund sample production and pilot schemes.

12. **Miss Eliza Lee** said that OFTA had also been funding a number of projects to assist people with different types of disabilities.

In addition, OFTA had invited people with different types of disabilities to serve on relevant advisory committees so that there would be a systematic way of getting their views.

13. In response to a member's comment on web accessibility, **Mr Jeremy Godfrey** said that OGCIO would remind other B/Ds to comply with web accessibility guidelines and to pass on the message to the public sector bodies under their purview.

Agenda Item IV: Summary of Task Forces' Work in the Current Term and the Way Forward

14. **Mr Jeremy Godfrey** introduced the paper and thanked all members for their contributions in the task forces. **Members** noted the progress update on the task forces, the major conclusions and the way forward.

Agenda Item V: Any Other Business

15. A **member** asked whether the Government had plans to help people install personal filtering devices to keep harmful contents away from their children and whether the Government would certify any filtering devices. **Mr Jeremy Godfrey** replied that technically-savvy children could get around filtering software and harmful contents could be distributed through peer-to-peer network and platforms like Facebook. In a survey conducted earlier, a negative correlation was found between parents using filtering software and their satisfaction with their ability to protect their children from harmful contents. Instead of filtering software, a more effective measure was for parents to become familiar with the Internet and to engage in their children's lives. The Government would continue to inform parents of the availability of filtering software and their limitations, as well as other parental techniques in relation to the use of Internet.

16. This was the last meeting of the current membership term of

the D21SAC. The **Chairman** thanked members for their contributions in the past two years in meetings of D21SAC and its task forces.

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