

I read the draft 2007 Digital 21 Strategy with great enthusiasm and excitement. I am especially interested in the government initiative to pursue and apply sensor and identification technology. However, I am saddened to see that the government is mainly concentrating on RFID and GPS technology. There are other sensor and identification technology that can be applied to create a digital city.

e-Channel

The implementation of e-Channel has been very successful. As a resident of Hong Kong, I am keen to see that the e-Channel be extended to Hong Kong Residents as well, instead of restricting to Hong Kong Permanent Residents only. I would also like to see the Immigration Department implementing similar system at the Hong Kong International Airport for frequent flyers.

Integrated Health Care

The Hospital Authority may want to consider the use of digital service on its ambulance services as well. Often when an ambulance service is required, it is the field staff that will do the first hand diagnostic on the victim/patient before sending them to the hospital where emergency medical staff will redo the diagnostic again even when there is radio communication between the ambulance staff and the hospital emergency medical workers. Hospital Authority may want to consider using portable computers or wearable computers for the ambulance staff when they are doing the first hand diagnostic to input the symptom and other information deemed necessary. These information will then be transmitted to the hospital where the emergency staff will have a clear picture of the situation even before the victim arrived at the hospital. This will allow the emergency medical team to be well prepared to receive the victim or patient when they arrived at the hospital which will give them the edge to respond to save life.

The Hospital Authority and the Department of Health may also like to consider an automated patient registration for out-patient in hospital and public clinics. This will cut down the queue time for registration. The automated registration system may use the new HKID card which already have the owner finger print for registration or other biometric system such as iris recognition for this purpose.

Vessel Traffic Services (VTS) System

No doubt about it that the current VTS system owned by the Marine Department is one of the state-of-the-art technology system. However I would like to point out that it is rather unusual to use CCTV for monitoring purposes. Although the CCTV used have night vision image intensifiers, normally such night vision system has limited range and may

identify the vessel or to read the vessel name at night. It is suggested that the Marine Department to consider using Electro Optics (EO) camera instead. EO cameras are much more versatile and has longer viewing range and CCTV. It has the capability to hold an additional FLIR (Forward Looking Infra Red) camera. FLIR is a thermal imaging system which has superior range is also able to perform target recognition and target tracking which is very useful for the VTS system.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to comment on the 2007 Digital 21 Strategy and I will be most happy to share more ideas if required.

Best regards
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