

e-Business Association 電子商貿協會

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Office of Government Chief Information Office 2/F, Murray Building, Garden Road, Hong Kong

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Dear Sir / Madam,

Re: Consultation on Digital 21 Strategy- Comments and Views submitted by E-Business Association (www.eba.org.hk)

On behalf of the e-Business Association, we would like to forward our comments on the Consultation on the digital 21 2007 strategy. Our views and comments are listed as follows:-

Promotion of e-Business in various business sectors: The Government should encourage for the adaptation of e-Business and application of IT for different sectors. This would allow more services in Hong Kong, especially finance and information services to be deployed via Internet and e-Business. It could maximize our competitiveness advantages by using the latest technologies.

IT Procurement policy and SMES of Hong Kong companies: The business environment in Hong Kong seems to be unfavorable for the development of local IT technologies. There seems to have insufficient government support to local IT SME. The government tendering policy seems be more favorable to large multinational company than to the local SME. Under this policy, many projects were contracted to multinational large corporation and therefore, many local SME can only bid government projects as sub-contractors of these large companies. This discourages the development of our local technologies.

Hong Kong as a Digital City and the Telcom Gateway for China: Hong Kong has good potentials to be a world class digital city. However, there seems no long term strategy or policy initiated by the government leading us to become a real digital city. An initiative for establishing a WIFI city by the government is recommended. Once the infrastructure is ready, e-Business initiatives can easily be deployed considering the lower barrier of entry. Moreover, Hong Kong should position ourselves as the major Telecom hub and gateway in China. By doing so, we can leverage our strengths on telecom infrastructure and bring in more foreign investment and revenue to Hong Kong

In conclusion, there should be a long-term vision on Digital 21 Strategy. There should be actionable implementation plan, measurable deliverables and accountable parties mentioned in the strategy, especially in the area of ICT convergence, adoption of IPv6, digital media and entertainment convergence as well as WIMAX implementation. We hope the aforementioned views and comments are useful.

Best regards,

Amanda Lim President, e-Business Association