

Trying to be "smart" is a "手段" but not the "目的". For most, esp'ly the low and small people, their "目的" can be as simple as "happy", "healthy" etc. "Smarter City, Happier Living" is probably easier for them to relate to.

Services sector itself also employs a lot of ICT people, and is an important part of the ICT Industry. So our storyline may go like this: "ICT professionals can be as successful as any others in various businesses and industries". E.g. If you want to become a banker, IT is one of the (better?) ways to get there - John S, Raymond C, Paul C etc. come to mind.

"Access to ICT" should come first, then "build the skills and confidence of using it" follows. WiFi@HK's 1st target should be its citizens, esp'ly the young, women and "underprivileged".

Digital Cert needs to be a lot easier to acquire, install and use by ordinary people of HK. Honestly, I didn't even bother to renew mine many years ago as I'm now a "5-screen" person and change my gadgets from time to time. I find it too unwieldy to load the cert on some of these devices.

WiFi needs to be truly inexpensive and ubiquitous to reach esp'ly the lowest tier and underprivileged of our community - they are likely the ones less able to afford unlimited 3G or 4G data plans.

Data center itself does not directly create a lot of ICT jobs or skill enhancement opportunities, as its operation is highly automated. And it's not easy to attract "young talents" to its 3-shift operation kind of jobs. The benefits are perhaps more indirect, for instance from ICT vendors and service providers.

Infrastructure is one thing, content is what really makes the whole thing click. For instance, "Smart City" as a content has a lot to fill in - transportation, to name just one of many more: HK's famous tram service, with its fixed routes that's ready supported by GPS, a display panel can show passengers how long they need to wait for the next trams to their destinations.

We must wake up to the fact that even Guangdong may not necessarily see HK as a natural partner any long, not to mention Shanghai! I feel this very strongly within CCB itself. Used to be "from", then "with", now "for" or "to" HK. I believe Digital 21 must bring HK a few competitive "亮点" vis-a-vis Shanghai, Singapore etc., instead

of (or in addition to) just indulging in a "Smarter City" ourselves.

Four-thrust Strategy:

Business innovation is one thing as it's chiefly driven by competition and greed, but the true prize comes from participation of average citizens en masse in the innovation process. OGCIO's relentless drive notwithstanding, IT subjects have fallen victim of the new "334" education scheme, for instance. This kind of developments is not conducive to stimulating innovative ideas in ICT areas.

In HK we don't necessarily talk about technology innovation in itself, but rather innovative applications or exploitations of new technologies in businesses and industries. Granted the like of Science Park, Cyberport and well-ranked universities, but few believe HK would ever become an R&D center that matters. We in the business world, on the other hand, are simply forced to innovate in order to compete, survive and strive.

PSI, with well-defined open APIs, is very important and must continue to be broadened, perhaps jointly with private companies - using transportation example once again: bus companies and MTR and so on.

Startups need to be nurtured, supported and, more importantly, supervised and managed. Government should provide not only funding, but also effective coaching and monitoring to increase their chance of success on a sustained basis over time.

Re. Professional Recognition, I believe HKITPC, under the auspices of HKCS, has the best chance of becoming the de-facto accreditation body, provided that government and major employers make that as requirements over a set timetable. Another way is to align with HKIE and HKIET. But, in the final analysis, it all depends on what differences, in terms of job and promotion opportunities, salary etc. do such recognition/ certification make to the incumbents.

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