

**Hong Kong Next Generation Internet Society**

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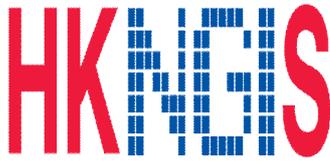
## **Response to Public Consultation on 2014 Digital 21 Strategy**

**Submitted by**

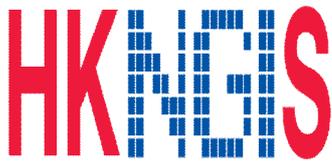
**The Hong Kong Next Generation Internet Society**

In response to the public consultation exercise on the 2014 Digital 21 Strategy (hereafter refer to as the D21 Strategy), the Hong Kong Next Generation Internet Society (HKNGIS) would like to submit our comments on the Strategy paper as follows:

- 1. The D21 Strategy consultation paper has not indicated a time-frame on how long the strategy is intended to cover. The last update to the D21 Strategy was made in 2008 and the present strategy will be published in 2014, which gives a span of 6 years. As the ICT industry is still evolving at a phenomenal rate, 3 years of development in the ICT world is almost like an era. We believe that the strategy paper should bear an explicit timeframe so that the various areas of development could be properly assessed on their own merits. The next update to the D21 Strategy should be made in a much shorter period, such as 3 years at the maximum.**
- 2. The D21 Strategy covers a number of areas of development but very few quantitative targets have been set up. It would be desirable that measurable targets, such as KPIs (Key Performance Indicators), should be indicated for each area of development with a time-frame, otherwise the strategy would not be so meaningful.**
- 3. Overall, the strategy appears to be a near-term plan that adopts a conservative approach. Strategy-wise, it should be a document that aims to propel Hong Kong into the top positions in the development and use of ICT, not only in the Asia Pacific region, but among the world economy. We should strive to be a leader and not a follower in the pursuit of IT development in Hong Kong. Specifically, I myself had made a verbal comment at one consultation session that the theme of D21 Strategy should be coined “Smart Hong Kong, Smart Living” rather than “Smarter Hong Kong, Smarter Living”, as the use of the word “smarter” shows an incremental approach to the IT development strategy and would imply a rather conservative approach in the development and deployment of ICT in Hong Kong. The “Smart Hong Kong, Smart Living” theme would probably be more compatible to the corresponding theme in Chinese.**



4. **The D21 Strategy has indentified 4 areas of development, namely Cloud Computing, Big Data Analysis, Internet of Things and Wireless and Multi-platform. We agree that these are important areas of ICT development. We are however of the views that the government should make suitable differentiation between areas where they will embrace for deployment in their e-government development versus emerging areas identified to have great potentials but not yet embraced by the industry and needed support of the government to gain initial momentum. It would be desirable that the government should leave those areas that the commercial sector players are already having a good start and let these developments be driven by market forces of the industry, that would include such areas as Data Centres, Cloud Deployment, Big Data Analysis, Multi-Platform, etc. It would however be necessary for the government only to provide appropriate advice on issues such as security, data privacy, etc, in those areas that are gaining market momentum so that the citizens and the SMEs know the pros and cons when they go for the use of such maturing technologies.**
  
5. **HKNGIS is pleased to see that the government has embraced the development of Internet of Things (IOT) as one of the main strategies in the D21 Strategy. This was one of the important areas that HKNGIS has been advocating ever since the inauguration of our Society some 4 years ago. We are however disappointed that the strategy is talking about relatively passive deployment of IOT. Indeed we feel that more incentives should be given by the government to assist those ICT enterprises and organizations who are interested to develop active sensors with programmable capabilities rather than passive RFID tags, sensors and activators. Indeed the potential applications could be much larger in the deployment of active sensors and devices when IOT is being considered. However, this would not come to succeed without good preparation and experience gained over a period of time. The government should be prepared to set up some funding/incentives to help the exploration and development of workable active prototypes in deployment of IOT. There is a potential for much bigger development and we should seize the opportunity to take a lead in such development and deployment. It would also help to grow the ICT industry in Hong Kong.**



6. Also related to IOT development, early work in embracing the anticipated era of Next Generation Internet (or Future Internet) must be started in Hong Kong soon. The Government is advised to notice the developments ongoing actively in US, Europe and our neighbouring countries, including China, Japan and Korea, in advancing the next-generation Internet for the future that would be seen as multiple “slices of Internet” characterized by their respective industry/application centric assurance of quality of service and security. HKNGIS has communicated in occasions in last few years with government officials on setting up a Future Internet Testbed (“FIT”) that would enable Hong Kong to have the same capabilities, like our neighbouring countries, in capturing the Future Internet opportunities. We urge the Government to act on this with great urgency.
7. The government had tried to deploy digital certificates some 10 years ago and had failed desperately. The D21 Strategy paper now advocates to restart this initiative, of which we show our support, but the paper has not made it clear on how the government could now make a difference in their new attempt and drive the project to success in the current strategy.
8. We feel that the D21 Strategy must aim to provide much better wi-fi coverage and quality in Hong Kong. The project scale in terms of timing and coverage would be important KPIs that would impact on the value of the initiative.
9. The government should help the under-privileged groups not just in using ICT in their daily life for social and generational inclusion, but should also help to see how ICT could be deployed to help with the daily problems that they encounter. This is especially true with the growing elderly population in Hong Kong.
10. Finally, we feel that the D21 Strategy should strongly support nurturing the establishment of an ICT industry as a pillar industry in Hong Kong. The government should take lead to advocate and foster the growing of an ICT industry. Incentives should be made to help the ICT start-ups in as many ways as possible, with an aim of building a thriving and sustainable ICT industry in Hong Kong. This is also an important way to retain the ICT talents, which would be essential for the future prosperity of Hong Kong.

Ng Nam  
Chairman, HKNGIS  
November 30, 2013