

**Comments on “2014 Digital 21 Information Technology Strategy”
Consultation Paper**

Expert Group on Technology Development (EGTD)

co-chaired by

Dr. Hon Elizabeth QUAT

Ir Dr. Hon LO Wai-kwok

1. Vision of Smart and Green City

It's a common and acceptable projection globally based on existing energy consumption that the global temperature will rise up at least for 5 degree Celsius by the end of this century. By that time, extreme weathers will cause numerous disastrous damages on a global basis. Hence, all advanced economies like US, EU, Australia, Singapore, S. Korea, Germany and also China have been implementing aggressive visions in the direction towards Green and Smart City Development. Our government should have clear vision to support and invest Green Technology development and usage.

2. The Significance of Vision Setting

Once the above-mentioned vision is set, the community will be striving to achieve the vision via realising individual targets in different fields including IT, Biotech, Greentech, Electronics, and many others. This is exactly the same that when US Government had set a vision to stick their country flag in the moon in 60s, all sectors like IT, Biotech, Greentech have all been striving towards that direction. After working for 1-2 decades, US has emerged numerous new inventions that contributed their GDP growth to a substantial degree.

3. Two Approaches of GDP Growth

While other leading countries now have already taken a measureable initiative and vision for fostering technology and economic development, this is what we work in innovation normally call Ideal Final Result (IFR). This IFR will trigger relevant economic developments, technology break-through along the line. Of course, this IFR could be revised with adjustment subject to lots of factors from time to time. But HK Government is taking the other approach to foster the economic development of infra-structures like board-band networks, faster Wi-

Fi, etc. and believe the market will utilize the new infra-structures to evolve new inventions, business models and economic development on their own. We are not saying this model is not working at all right now. But this old model worked in the past when the world was with limited communication measures and most of the companies were competing locally. But now, anyone of us will have to compete globally. If Chinese companies did not receive their support from the Chinese Government, how a critical mass be built up? This is why US/EU always complained against China for subsidies. But Japan, S. Korea, Singapore, Taiwan, are also doing the same support for their companies except for Hong Kong companies! Will HK Government sincerely review whether a new approach be more suitable nowadays?

4. Youth Talent Cultivation

It's important to develop logical thinking since primary education. We propose to introduce software programming in every child's education. Modern computer and information technology studies at schools should not only focus on computers and word processing programmes. More and more technology has emerged in students' lives, and to understand the principles of it they need to know more about programming and technology in general. We should aim for:

1. Develop students' logical thinking, creativity, mathematical skills etc.;
2. Demonstrate that programming can be interesting and done by anyone;
3. Teach the basics of programming through practical activity; and
4. Teach students to use different age-appropriate programming languages.

5. Government Procurement Policy for Local Technology Provider

Government should become the pilot user for local developed technology, say reserve 10% to purchase local technology regardless of their experience. It can definitely help to groom and encourage local SME to develop new technology and productize it. By being the pilot of the local emerging technology, it could help them not only surviving, but also breaking through to become international product. For example, some green technology products are developed in HK locally, shouldn't our government take the lead for trial regardless of its experience?

6. Conclusions

From our humble suggestion, Hong Kong now do need a strong vision with measurable KPIs. With Government's proper policy and financial supports, the vision will definitely stimulate vibrant technology developments and economic

growths in various sectors, which will bring up our competitiveness (GDP/capita) on the track.