

Smarter Hong Kong Consultation Input

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(Please ignore any colour codes)

Summary of Recommendations (extracted from The Computer Age In HK)

This part presents the views from a cross section of leaders and experts the ways for our sector to move forward. their prescriptions for the future differ in emphasis based on their different positions of government, semi-government bodies, professionals, academicians and entrepreneurs.

The recommendations are summarized before presentation of the individual contributions:

Government

The Government should set a clear long-term policy to show its high priority for ICT and to help, manage, but not interfere with the private sector’s initiatives.

Elevate the status and simplify the management of ICT in Government: adopt an ‘Output Investment’ policy, create the ICT Bureau without delay, combine the management of Cyberport and Science Park, and simplify the approval of funds to help startups and SMEs.

Introduce incentives such as tax considerations to attract top R&D skills and investment of high tech projects and data centers.

Enhance delivery of Public Sector Information (PSI) to better service the public, enhance service for the aged and the low income sectors.

General education should be instituted to reduce the levels of digital divide.

Procure more local solutions to help nurture the local sector.

Establish an IRP trading platform to lower the cost of doing business, and attract foreign experts and companies who want to pursue the China market to be based here.

Human Resources

Institute measures immediately to develop a right supply-and-demand mix of talents for the sector's job market, as currently experienced skill jobs are unfilled while many new graduates are turned off by the low pay jobs and cannot foresee any exciting futures. The recommendations include deploying IT for Education in secondary schools (with the Pui Ching Middle School as a reference model) to cultivate student interests and positive attitude, introducing more business, ethics and humanity contents in IT tertiary education to better prepare graduates for the new job requirements.

Measures should also be introduced to promote the image and prospects of ICT careers to attract the right talents to take up such studies and future careers.

There should be programs to attract foreign talents to study and build a long term career here to increase the local talent pool.

Advanced Application Systems

We must enhance our IT application levels and contents to build skill leadership position which is essential to attract investments such as setting up regional data centers.

Nurturing Startups and SMEs

Cyberport and HKSTP can enhance their incubation programs and persuade angel funds and VC investments to help grow startups and promising SMEs.

Promoting Sector Image

There should be concerted efforts by **G**overnment, academia and the industry to promote the image and importance of the profession; including publicity campaigns, messages from role model spokesmen, and certification and professional recognition programs, to attract new talents and **boost morale** and commitment of the practitioners.

Cooperation with the Mainland

We can contribute to and benefit from working with the Mainland's fast advancing and growing ICT **I**ndustry, utilizing our many inherent strengths in infrastructure, legal system, international **outlook** and skill to help China to reach out to the world, **and** our application and system integration experiences to serve as a test bed for international solutions for the vast China market. We only have a short window to **leverage** our current strength to play our contributing roles.

Entrepreneurship

(Educate and assist the young generation to) pursue entrepreneurial dreams with patience, determination, preparedness and learning from failures.

Cultural Concerns

The trend of technologies such as W 2.0 and Big Data implies a culture of sharing of data and information. There is **a** concern that the Eastern cultures are not ones of voluntary contributing or sharing which may hinder the full and effective acceptance of these future technological advancements. Education and measures to address this new culture should be fully considered in the age of a knowledge-based society..

The prescriptions as summarized above have been widely voiced over time. It shows that the measures to improve our industry and Hong Kong's future are well and long understood. The fact that they are still valid means insufficient actions have been taken to address them. As an author and longtime practitioner, I feel obliged to assemble and document the

recommendations for the record, and hope that one-day, ICT technologies will be an integral part of a KBS Hong Kong and that our industry will regain its leadership position.