



Council Members 2008-2009

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新聞訊息

二零零八年十月十七日

香港電腦學會提出施政報告

資訊科技部分五大改善建議

早前香港特首曾蔭權發表了上任以來第三份施政報告，引起香港市民及各界熱烈討論。今次這份施政報告雖然對未來香港資訊科技發展部分著墨不多，但當中仍有不少值得討論以及進一步探索的地方。

香港電腦學會表示，今次特區政府的施政報告可供公眾討論的亦有數個議題，當中有關未來資訊科技發展的項目亦值得我們深思探討，當中包括：

- **特區政府應提高對創新科技的重視**，尤其在公眾認知方面，透過將科技創新，包括是資訊科技產業的角色重新定位，使香港慢慢轉化成一個知識型經濟城市。在過去二十年，由於高地價政策使到香港經濟發展過度集中於集幾個層面，大大阻礙了香港作多元發展的步伐，並且偏向了「財富」導向的發展模式，忽略了「創新」的重要性。反觀其它也是人口較少的經濟體系如新加坡、芬蘭和瑞典等，因為近年積極強化創新和科技的能力，而帶動了經濟的發展。所以為了加強本港的競爭力，務必要提升香港在創新與科技的整體能力。
- **電腦學會認為，特區政府應該成立一個全新組織（包括合併或重組現有組織）去統籌創新科技的政策及推動其發展。**以往政府對創新科技的投資不能算太少，但缺乏長遠規劃與跨部門在政策執行時的連貫性和一致性，一個全新的組織將有助政府更有效地推動香港創新科技產業的發展。
- **特區政府務必要更有效地和加快香港與珠三角鄰近城市建立更緊密的經濟合作關係**，共同推動整個區域的創新產業的發展。尤其在廣東省沿海各個城市，近年已全力深入高科技產業的開拓，與他們加強合作，將有利整個珠三角區的共同發展步伐。



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- **進一步落實和加快落馬州河套區及鄰近地區的發展**，過去政府就有關區域發展較為緩慢，加快啟動有關項目使落馬洲河套區成為推動附近區域經濟與科技發展的一個重要基地，包括軟件工業、高科技增值加工、科研發展等，都有極大的潛力成為推動香港發展高增值產業的項目。
- **特區政府需要增撥資源，加強資訊科技人才發展，及推動資訊科技人員的專業認證**，以強化資訊科技人員的專業水平和地位。香港現在已經有超過六萬人投身資訊科技行業，他們的直接經濟貢獻超過 3.2% 的 GDP，加強其人才的發展和加快推動專業認證的制度，將有利於鞏固本地人才的就業和帶動香港經濟的成功轉型。

香港電腦學會簡介

香港電腦學會 (The Hong Kong Computer Society, HKCS) 為非牟利的資訊科技專業團體，成立於 1970 年，旨在改善及發展香港的資訊科技業界。本會是本港資訊科技業內最著名及最大型的專業協會，致力為業界推動最高專業水平。本會會員來自香港不同的 IT 層面，包括大型企業的資訊科技用戶以至個人專才，攜手為業界利益作出貢獻。

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Immediate Release

Suggestions to the Chief Executive on the Upcoming 2008 Policy Address by Hong Kong Computer Society October 2008

Hong Kong is in desperate needs of new industry sectors to broaden its economic base and to create new jobs for the growing number of knowledge workers produced by our post-secondary education system.

To maintain economic prosperity in this increasingly integrated and globalised world, each individual economy needs to ceaselessly upgrade itself so as to gain more sophisticated competitive advantages, to develop more productive economic segments and create new industries to supplement, or to replace the ailing ones.

In the past two decades, its rising land cost and relatively high labor costs have gradually taken away some of the economic diversities that Hong Kong has once enjoyed. The three or four so-called pillar industries of Hong Kong are highly vulnerable to changes in the external factors that Hong Kong has little control of. Examples of them include the financial crisis that has devastated the entire Asia in 1997 and a more recent one, the fast deterioration of the global economic condition that is sending shock waves to all parts of the world.

Michael Porter, the renowned Harvard economist has developed a 4-stage model and provided a framework of thinking about the national economy's progress in terms of its competitiveness. These four stages of development are: factor-driven, investment-driven, innovation-driven, and wealth-driven. Hong Kong has arguably leaped into the "wealth-driven" stage without going through and benefiting from the "innovation-driven" stage as other more matured economies have. This un-intended shortcut in economic development could have deprived Hong Kong the opportunity to build a more solid foundation to sustain its long-term growth.

Many economies with sizes similar to or smaller than Hong Kong have adopted very aggressive and successful innovation and technology policies in guiding themselves through these economic development stages. Singapore, Sweden and Finland are among some of the more visible examples. Prof Porter has also stated clearly in his book (*The competitive advantage of nations*) that national prosperity is created, not inherited.



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To maintain the competitiveness of Hong Kong at a critical juncture of our development, we must re-think our position related to the innovation and technology policies and the adverse consequences for the apparent lack of such.

Suggestion 1: *To elevate the role of innovation and technology in the government and in the perception of the public. Position it as a strategic force leading the transition of Hong Kong into the knowledge economy.*

Responding to the alarmingly low percentage of our GDP spent in R&D work, The Hong Kong Government has in recent years allocated more resources in this area and as an attempt to correct this situation. The creation of an eighteen billion HK\$ endowment fund supporting R&D activities at the tertiary education sector is a good example of this commitment. Almost a decade ago, the Government has also established a HK\$5 billion Innovation and Technology Fund with a clear objective to establish the mid-stream R&D infrastructure to foster changes in the local industries. Unfortunately, these initiatives, among many others, are lacking the benefits of a coherent strategy in their planning and execution. They are in most cases, isolated programs responding to different pressures and needs of different time and situations. As a consequence, they are invariably under the administration of different government B/Ds and agencies that each has its own set of more narrowly focused missions to fulfill.

The lack of a holistic view on innovation and technology development strategy and the clear articulation of its implications on the various functions in the government and sectors within the community has created un-necessary duplications in effort, administrative inefficiency and most damaging of all, blocked our view to a clearer direction for marching forward in a synchronized fashion.

Suggestion 2: *To establish a new organization (or to merge and re-organize existing agencies) within the government and to give it the broad-based responsibilities for formulating and implementing policies addressing the full array of issues related to innovation and technology development in Hong Kong.*



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The Guangdong Province is aggressively positioning itself to stand up to the complex set of challenges in its next economic development stage. Innovation and Technology development is on the top of its priority list.

Riding on the CEPA arrangement, Hong Kong will need to become more prudent in paying attention to the needs of its mainland partners. Our industries must work hard to develop deeper collaboration with their mainland counterparts to maintain a meaningful role for Hong Kong in this new and integrated economic development of the entire region.

Suggestion 3: To develop deeper collaboration with Pearl River Delta cities and to position Hong Kong as a key partner in the on-going economic transformation of the region.

Being a geographical advantage of the Lok Ma Chau Loop, its proximity to city of Shenzhen should be fully leveraged in the planning of its land use. This area can be geared for the support the close interaction of cross-border enterprises as well as the deep collaboration of the professionals and knowledge workers from both sides of the border. High value-added ITO (e.g. software development, digital entertainment development, data center operations), KPO (e.g. high-valued business processes outsourcing operations employing large number of knowledge workers), R&D institutions can be targeted as the preferred business sectors to be attracted into the Loop and its surrounding areas.

This Lok Ma Chau Loop and its surrounding areas have the potential to be developed into a new economic center in the northern region of Hong Kong supporting the new innovation and technology based industries.

Suggestion 4: To speed-up the development of the Lok Ma Chau Loop and its surrounding area to become a new economic center focusing on the innovation and technology based industries.

The availability of high caliber talents and manpower are the key factors for our successful transition into the knowledge-based economic with very strong technology and innovation elements.

IT is certainly one of the most important sectors in this new economy that Hong Kong is shaping. Hong Kong currently has more than 60,000 practicing IT professionals and they are directly contributing more than 3.2% of the total GDP.



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The continuous development of the professionals in this sector and their certifications are critically important to ensure that we have a steady supply of high caliber talents to sustain the growth of this industry. The Hong Kong Computer Society has been working with various industry bodies and local employers in the past two years in establishing a certification scheme for the IT professionals. The OGCI of the Hong Kong Government has provided part of the funding for the development of this certification scheme. The Government can step-up its support of this industry-wide program by accepting the professional credentials granted under this scheme.

Suggestion 5: To provide stronger leadership in IT manpower development and the acceptance of the professional credentials granted under the IT Professional Certification scheme operated by the industry.

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