The Hong Kong Computer Society Sees Talent Development as Top Priority for 2014 Digital 21 Strategy
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For consultation on the 2014 Digital 21 Strategy by Commerce and Economic Development Bureau, The Hong Kong Computer Society (HKCS) held the "Digital 21 Strategy Forum" to collect the views of industry leaders, scholars and HKCS members. We propose the following recommendations in six major areas for the government's consideration:

- **Talent Cultivation in Information and Communications Technology (ICT)** ── HKCS concurs that talent development is key to the growth of the ICT industry. We strongly support the government's proposal of including programming curriculum in basic education. Our suggestions are as follows:
  - ◆ Drawing on the examples of similar schemes in other countries, the government should invite selected local schools to take part in the pivotal scheme of programming curriculum in basic education.
  - ◆ The government should continue to implement and step up on its efforts in promoting the Certified Professional of IT (CPIT), and align it with the Qualifications Framework (QF) to enhance the professional image of ICT talents.
  - ◆ To reposition ICT as the pillar of pillar industries in Hong Kong; to affirm its importance and future prospects in order to attract high caliber talents to study ICT and to join the industry.
  - ◆ To encourage local schools and teachers to enrich the creative learning of ICT by shifting the focus from "teaching" to "learning", and nurturing the logical thinking and creativity of students through the studies of ICT.
- **Free and Easy-to-Use Digital Identification** ── **The Government Should**：
  - ◆ Examine how to streamline the use of digital certificate and enhance its safety so as to popularize its use.
  - ◆ Encourage public and private organizations to launch a greater scope of services that utilize digital identification, while the government provides concrete proposals for implementation and guidelines on its use.
  - ◆ Be mindful of budget control.
  - ◆ In the implementation of digital identification, measures should be taken to protect user safety and privacy, such as prevention of data leakage of expiry date as well as personal data.
- **Innovation and Use of Technology** ── **The Government Should**：

- ◆ Increase the budget for technology research and development (R&D) to encourage innovation in technology.
- ◆ Fully utilize the fruits of technology innovation by bringing the results of high-value R&D into the business sector for practical use.
- ◆ On cloud services for small and medium sized enterprises, the government should facilitate and strengthen education and training in cloud computing, with the view to promoting the use of cloud services among small and medium sized enterprises. It will also create business opportunities for service providers.
- ◆ On the use of other new technologies such as big data analytics, Internet of Things, wireless and multi-platform technologies, the government should provide further education and training in technical skills and safety, so as to popularize the use of these new technologies.
- ● **Internet Connectivity and Information Accessibility** ── HKCS concurs with the government's measures to extend internet connectivity and public information online to the wider public. Our suggestions are as follows:
  - ◆ As the government provides broadband and Wi-Fi services to local schools for promoting electronic learning, it should also offer high quality learning software products to the schools.
  - ◆ To encourage public use of government websites, the government should keep the software products on its websites updated, and introduce a greater scope of functionality and services for information delivery.
- ● **Closer Co-operation with the Mainland**－With the rapid economic development on the Mainland, Hong Kong's competitiveness and strategic importance have been gradually on the wane. The Guangzhou Province might no longer consider Hong Kong as its partner for cooperation. Beyond the building of a "Smarter Hong Kong", HKCS proposes that the 21 Digital Strategy should place emphasis on increasing Hong Kong's competitiveness.
- ● **Green Information and Technology** – Green technology and environmental protection should be a highlight in the development of technology. Some proposed measures include the launch of green data center and smart traffic lights, reduction of electronic junk and promotion of paperless office. The government should launch further policies on green technology to promote environmental protection.

Talent cultivation is an important concern of HKCS and the ICT sector, since we consider it a critical issue in Hong Kong's development as a knowledge-based economy. For instance, the availability of qualified teachers is a pre-requisite to the inclusion of programming curriculum in basic education. To attract high caliber talents to join the ICT sector, the government must reposition ICT as a widely recognized and valued profession.

With the support of CEPA, the government should also develop Hong Kong as the IT hub of Asia.

In view of these developments, HKCS once again urges the government to establish the Innovation and Technology Bureau. It will complement the future development of ICT in Hong Kong, and strengthen the coordination and training of talents in the ICT sector.

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Information provided by The Hong Kong Computer Society.
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