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**HKCS Supports The Constructive Measures to ICT Industry Development in the Budget 2014 and**
**Urges the Establishment of Technology and Innovations Bureau**


**26th February, 2014 • Hong Kong──** Hong Kong Computer Society (HKCS) expressed its support to the favorable measures the Financial Secretary introduced in his Budget 2014-15 for the development and promotion of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) industry. HKCS was pleased to see that ICT related content was more prevalent in this Budget, which demonstrated that the Government recognized increasingly the importance of ICT to the future of Hong Kong.


## Talent Cultivation is The Key to Future Development

Mr. Michael Leung, President of HKCS said, "Talents are indispensable to the development of a knowledge-based economy. HKCS has spared no effort in the past years on nurturing young talents, encouraging them to take ICT related courses and choosing ICT as their career. HKCS fully supports the Government's effort, as the Budget 2014 entails, in facilitating a closer collaboration with tertiary institutions and the industry, and bringing ICT education more in line with the needs of the industry. We are also pleased to support the publicity campaign by the Government about the contributions made by ICT to the society and economy, which helped to enhance our professional image and status."

In Budget 2014, Financial Secretary said the Government would identify gifted students by introducing enrichment programmes in secondary schools that have outstanding in ICT education. By so doing, the Government hoped to cultivate a new generation of IT professionals and even entrepreneurs to meet the needs of a fast evolving digital society. Commenting on this initiative, Mr. Leung stated " In fact, Hong Kong's ICT professional standard has been leading in Asia Pacific region. One evidence was the prestigious Asia Pacific Information and Communication Technology Alliance (APICTA) Awards, where Hong Kong has topped the awardee's list for the past three years. Promoting ICT studies in secondary schools will help lay a solid foundation for young ICT talents development." (For more details on APICTA Awards in the past three years, please see Appendix 1.)

Mr. Leung suggested the Government to include programming training in foundational education curriculum,,and encourage schools to nurture curiosity and creativity, by shifting the paradigm from "teaching" to "learning" and "experimenting" through ICT study projects for instance.

"Furthermore, the Government should continue to focus its effort in promoting the accreditation of ICT professional qualification, and align it with the Qualifications Framework (QF) to enhance the professional standard as well as social status of ICT practitioners," added Mr. Leung.

**Smart City Benefits the Economy**
In the Budget, the Government proposed a series of initiatives to transform Hong Kong into a Smart City, such as doubling the number of Wi-Fi hotspots to 20,000 by end of 2014 to promote city-wide free Wi-Fi for all. HKCS fully endorsed this and other similar initiatives, because a comprehensive Wi-Fi coverage is instrumental to a world-class smart city, providing its citizens and visitors with easy and convenient ways to get connected and stay informed.

HKCS concurred with Financial Secretary that making all government information available for public consumption could provide ample opportunities for business sector. HKCS expected many mobile apps development firms would take advantage of this to enhance their offerings, which in turn would help to raise Hong Kong's technology level and boost ICT industry's development.

Moreover, HKCS welcomed the plan to provide digital identity to all Hong Kong citizens in order to develop a standardized and secure platform for the delivery of value services such as electronic health records and e-cheques. "Despite certain hiccups of the e-Cert scheme in previous years, we believe that we can now effectively support digital identity with advanced technology for Hong Kong people to enjoy a more convenient and smarter living," said Mr. Leung.

**Help Improving Underprivileged Living by Using ICT**
For further suggestions, Mr. Leung pointed out that the Budget 2014 did not have much mention on how to supporting the ICT needs for the underprivileged, such as the disabled, mentally impaired, senior citizens and grassroots families. For example, the Government could support them on learning ICT knowledge and skills, as well as

achieving social integration through smart city concept and so on. There were clearly rooms for further deliberation.

Regarding the investment in cross-boundary and regional collaborations of ICT, HKCS suggested the Government to invest resources in promoting professional exchanges and recognitions, exploring business opportunities and joint developments, especially with mainland China counterparts.

Mr. Leung concluded, "In Budget 2014 the Financial Secretary has committed to invest in transforming Hong Kong into a world-class Smart City, by means of further digitalizing government operations, actively implementing paperless solutions, promoting digital identity, cultivating local ICT talents, adopting cloud computing, commercializing R&D results and investment matching with R&D talents, among many others. We believe these initiatives will help to boost Hong Kong's competitiveness and, therefore, will garner the support of the wider community.

**Urging the Establishment of Innovation and Technology Bureau**

Mr. Leung emphasized, "The world has move into a knowledge-based economy. In order to maintain the competitive advantages of Hong Kong, we must promoting digitalization, cultivating more ICT talents and lining up R&D with investors at upstream and commercialization experts from downstream. We expect ICT industry will become the powerful engine for Hong Kong economy development in future. The manpower needed will also create a promising future for Hong Kong youngsters with the support of appropriated ICT education and entrepreneurial training."

In addition, the Financial Secretary strongly endorsed the establishment of Innovation and Technology Bureau (ITB), which was proposed by the Chief Executive in his Policy Address earlier. HKCS strongly supported the establishment of ITB and believed that it would be well positioned to coordinate and oversee the implementation of the various initiatives as stated in the Budget 2014.

**About Hong Kong Computer Society (HKCS)**

The Hong Kong Computer Society is a non-profit professional organization established in 1970, which strives to improve and develop Hong Kong's Information Technology (IT) industry. Being the most well-established and the largest professional association in Hong Kong, the HKCS is dedicated to promote the highest professional standards for the industry. The HKCS members are form a broad

spectrum of Hong Kong's IT industry, from corporate users to individual talents, all working together for the benefit of industry.

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For Media Enquiries:     Please contact Davis Man at Man Communications Limited 2862 0042 (office)

## Appendix 1: APICTA Local Academia Winners and Merits list in Past Three Years

| APICTA awards won by Local Academia | Institutes and Awards |
|---|---|
| APICTA 2011, Pattaya | 1. Hong Kong Baptist University: Ulcer Detection in Gastrointestinal Videos (Tertiary Student Project Winner)<br>2. NLSI Lui Kwok Pat Fong College: Schoolbag helper (Secondary Student Project Merit)<br>3. The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology: Modular-based Underwater Robotics System (Tertiary Student Project Merit) |
| APICTA 2012, Brunei Darussalam | 1. The Hong Kong Polytechnic University: KineLabs for Elderly and Stroke Rehabilitation (e-Health Winner)<br>2. Hong Kong University of Science and Technology: Lavinet: An innovation multi-hop wireless network for pervasive Wi-Fi access (Research and Development Merit)<br>3. Shun Tak Fraternal Association Yung Yau College: Intelligent Child Care System (Secondary Student Project Merit)<br>4. Shun Tak Fraternal Association Yung Yau College: Smart Gardener (Secondary Student Project Merit)<br>5. City University of Hong Kong: Mobile Live Broadcasting Application (Tertiary Student Project Merit) |
| APICTA 2013, Hong | 1. Department of Computer Science, The Hong Kong |

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|---|---|
| Kong | University of Hong Kong: KINECT in Physiotherapy (Tertiary Student Project Merit)<br>2. Shun Tak Fraternal Association Yung Yau College: HeartBook & SmartHelper (School Project Merit)<br>3. Shun Tak Fraternal Association Yung Yau College: Intelligent Smoke-killing Rubbish bin & Distributed Air-quality Monitoring System (School Project Merit)<br>4. Tung Wah Group of Hospitals Chang Ming Thien College: @lert (School Project Merit) |