



For Immediate Release

## **Policy Address 2016 discloses upcoming direction of Hong Kong's ICT industry**

### **Hong Kong Computer Society is eager to provide assistance**

Hong Kong – January 13<sup>th</sup>, 2016 – Hong Kong Computer Society (HKCS) welcomes and supports the initiatives and have the following expectations and strategic recommendations for the Policy Address 2016 presented by Mr. Leung Chun-ying, Chief Executive of Hong Kong.

With the establishment of the Innovation and Technology Bureau (ITB) last year, the HKCS is pleased to note that the area of innovation and technology has been given significant attention in today's Policy Address. Among the various initiatives, HKCS especially welcomes the establishment of various funds to promote, stimulate and implement relevant initiatives in innovation and technology, in particular:

- the ITB \$2B Applied Research Fund
- the \$200M Cyberport Macro Fund for ICT startups
- the \$2B Innovation and Technology Venture Fund
- the \$500M Innovation and Technology Fund for Better Living

We further look towards details regarding the criteria for granting these funds, such as, the differentiation between and complementariness of the much welcomed Applied Research Fund to be managed by the ITB to the University Grants Committee funding for our tertiary institutions and the difference between the Macro Fund and Micro Fund.

### **Reindustrialization**

We are also much encouraged by the plans related to enhancing facilities at the Science and Technology Parks and Cyberport to facilitate and accommodate the growth and opportunities of our startups. This will serve as encouragement to the future development of innovative products and services. The re-industrialization strategy would help to reinvent and revitalize our industrial base through high valued and high tech-based manufacturing.

### **Smart City and Open Data**

HKCS also much welcomes the Government's aggressive plan to doubling our free Wi-Fi hotspots, Open Data project for both public and private sectors, and the standards and framework on big



data and smart city. With all these working with other initiatives, Hong Kong has the potential to become a top smart city in the world.

### **ICT Talent**

While HKCS is enthusiastic and much encouraged by the various new and strategic measures to drive our innovation and technology, we are disappointed that there is no mention of the urgent need to support the training and cultivation of ICT talents and skills which is highly required and sought after by all disciplines, industries and sectors. This lack in quantity and quality of talent is a huge obstacle to being able to successfully develop Hong Kong as a knowledge-based society. While the strategic focus on STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) education is much appreciated and helpful to our future, we are disappointed that, in the near and medium term, the importance of training and education for IT human talent has not been given the level of support provided to, for example, the aviation industry, insurance sector, or agricultural sector as accorded in the Policy Address.

### **Entrepreneurship**

We are also disappointed that there is no mention of the important strategic preference to local ICT related companies, especially our startups, in government ICT procurement of products and services that are conceived, designed and produced in Hong Kong. This initiative would provide, as in many other economies, the impetus for effective recognition, product and service verification and credible reference for our ICT companies in “going global”.

### **One-Belt-One-Road**

It should also be noted that, in the “one belt one road” territorial initiatives, our ICT experience and skills would serve as one of our prime qualifications for relevant maritime countries along the belt with their respective varying degree of technological maturity, in advancing their ICT related infrastructure, including telecommunications infrastructure, e-government initiatives, PSI (Public Sector Information), and PPP (Public Sector Partnership), e.g. in e-health and e-logistics.

### **Summary**

In summary, the strategic funding as well as the various platforms and channels, both physical and virtual, announced in the Policy Address demonstrate good strides towards nurturing local innovation and technology. However, the Policy Address falls short on addressing necessary support for the urgent need to cultivate talent for the ICT profession and industry as well as on



tangible support on the “last mile” of commercialization opportunities in the innovation-to-commercial-reality value chain.

The HKCS stands ready to work with the HKSAR Government and our ICT industry to successfully implement the innovation and technology initiatives as stipulated in the Policy Address, as well as to encourage the formulation and adoption of other equally important and relevant measures yet to be considered.

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

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