

## **HKITF Response to the Consultation on Hong Kong 2030: Planning Vision and Strategy**

1. The Hong Kong Information Technology Federation (HKITF) would in particular like to comment on the parts of the consultation as it relates to information technology (IT), communications, and *facilitating businesses of tomorrow*. As the consultation document clearly acknowledges, advances in information technology have made significant impacts on the way businesses are conducted. Hong Kong as a regional center of telecommunications capacities and IT activities must certainly fully consider the role IT will play in the development of our city.
2. Concerning "Facilitating Businesses of Tomorrow," the HKITF does not agree with the notion in your paper that the impact of IT in Hong Kong "has been less significant," compared with elsewhere "especially in the western world." The impact of IT cannot be simply measured by the amount of home-based offices (which are not prevalent in Hong Kong more so because of the compact nature of Hong Kong and the lack of space within the typical homes) or the (lack of) reduction of traffic congestions at peak hour (which does not happen anywhere else even for places like Silicon Valley – as a vibrant IT business environment will mean more economic activities overall, not just people staying home on their computers). The overall planning in view of the IT revolution must take a broader view than just simplistic determinations like the movement of people and whether more office spaces are needed.
3. The cornerstone of a city with the conditions to enable full IT adoption must contain the most widespread deployment of local, metropolitan and wide area networks possible. In Hong Kong, there are still many locations, mostly rural areas, where the broadband network (ADSL from the phone companies and hybrid coaxial fiber cable or HFC from the cable company) are not available. In future, it may be envisaged that a wireless metropolitan network consisting of a mixture of mobile broadband (e.g. 3G) and wireless LAN technologies should be deployed in Hong Kong. The long-term planning framework should "imagine" a fully wireless city that allows citizens to be on the Information Highway anywhere he or she goes.
4. The HKITF welcomes the recent Government relaxation for the use of industrial and business buildings to also include IT and telecommunications use, as, in the past, companies could not establish data centers in some of the empty industrial buildings. While in the near term, there appears to be an over-supply of such facilities, it is possible for Hong Kong to successfully re-position as the IT and telecommunications hub of southern China and the Pearl River Delta.



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5. As more IT service or product companies, as well as user organizations of IT, begin to migrate parts of their development or business activities to China, especially the Pearl River Delta, "closer links with the Mainland" is a priority, for transportation and customs and other policies.
6. For "more sustainable use of industrial buildings," some of these buildings may be used for creative services like studios, workshops for multimedia or software development, etc. However, for IT professionals, who tend to be selective about the area that they work or live in, proper environmental and transportation planning will be very important.
7. Finally, in the longer term planning for Hong Kong, integration with southern China will almost be a certainty. Hence, land use and planning issues in Hong Kong cannot be considered without considering the current status and future development plan in the Pearl River Delta. Also, maintaining what remains of Hong Kong environment, and remnants of Hong Kong's natural beauty, like the Victoria Harbour and other waterfronts, must remain a priority.

### **The Council**

#### **Hong Kong Information Technology Federation**

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### **About HKITF**

The HKITF was founded in 1980 to provide a forum in which the normally competitive IT Vendor companies in Hong Kong could work together to improve the industry and to maintain a high level of business practice amongst its members. Over the next several years HKITF developed into a dynamic organization which now comprises all of the major hardware and software vendors together with many of the IT related service, training, systems integration and consultancy companies. HKITF is a not-for-profit and non-political organization, which functions under the direction of an elected Executive Council. The HKITF also counts a number of important industry forums as our affiliate organizations, including the Hong Kong Internet Service Providers Association (HKISPA) and the Open Software Forum (OSF).