

Statement in support of ITB

To maintain and enhance Hong Kong's competitive position as a world-class smart city, we must leverage the entrepreneurial spirit of its citizens and businesses, a major source of strength in Hong Kong.

How can we do that?

We need to build on the most advanced and powerful tools at our disposal, especially in the area of computing and communications technologies. More importantly, we need to learn how to use these tools to benefit all the stakeholders in the city, especially our citizens and businesses. This is a challenge shared by all the cities of the world – yet every city is unique. The accelerating rate of change in our global economy demands not only new expertise, but also new ways of seeing how everything works. Awareness of these changes has dramatically raised the urgency and importance of having public officials who are dedicated to ensuring Hong Kong develops focused strategies for sustained growth and prosperity.

This aspect of sustainability is such a fundamentally important aspect of our lives that it deserves special attention at the highest levels of government in the HKSAR. Establishment of the IT Bureau would be a critical first step toward understanding the human dimensions of society's needs for an efficient and effective technology infrastructure.

In the current demand-driven ecosystem, that is a Relationship and Knowledge Economy, Connectivity is the New Currency. Entrepreneurs, being naturally resourceful, are especially adept in this environment. We should seek to inspire and mobilize entrepreneurs, especially young people, to invest their energy in finding ways that we, as citizens, and as a city, can enhance Hong Kong as one of the world's most desirable places to live and work.