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**The Legislative Council of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region
Panel on Information Technology and Broadcasting**

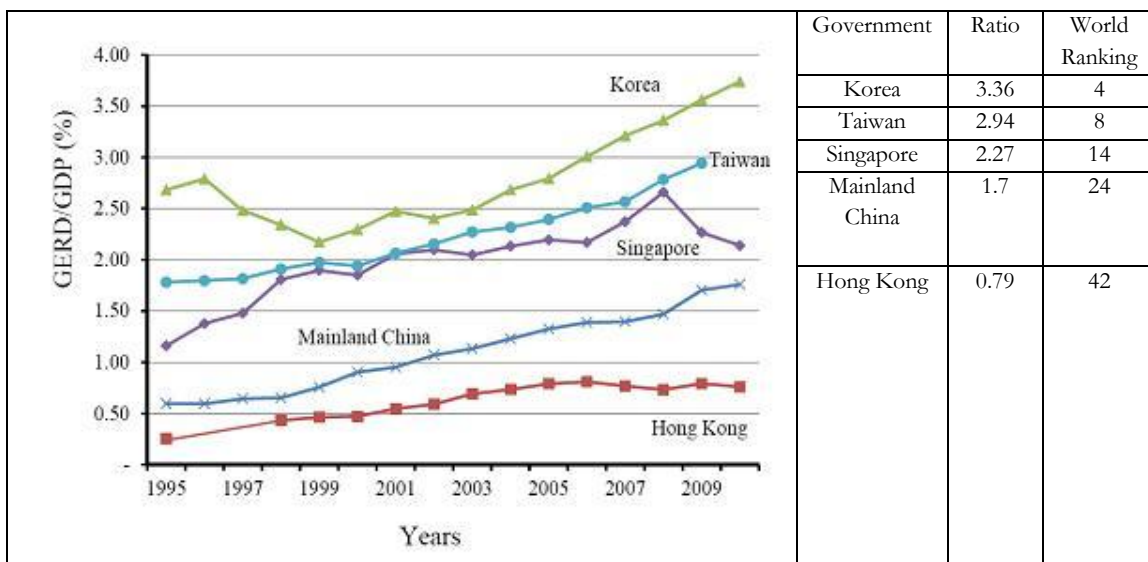
Support for the Proposal to establish the Innovation and Technology Bureau

I am a director of an IT Software-as-a-Service (SaaS) company – Right Station Ltd. (www.rightstation.com) in Hong Kong. Personally, I am a vice-chairman of Technology Incubation Network (TIN), convener of Cloud Computing SIG and committee member of Business Intelligence SIG of Hong Kong Computer Society. I would like to express my support for the proposal to establish the Innovation and Technology Bureau.

Hong Kong has been suffered from slow economic growth due to lack of government policy for Innovation and Technology compared to other three “Little Dragons” in Asia. Lack behind impression may be plausible but figures speak the truth.

The following are some key indicators from Hong Kong Institution of Science (http://www.science.org.hk/attachment/figure_2012.html) . Hopefully, these pictures can ring the alarm bell to those reasonable and sensible people who still believe laissez-faire are the winning formula for Innovation and Technology development in a modern society.

The following graph shows the comparison of Gross Expenditure on Research &Development (GERD) as a percentage of GDP (%) of Four Asian Dragons and Mainland China. Sources: World Competitiveness Yearbook 2012, OECD Main Science and Technology Indicators datasets, Hong Kong Innovation Activities Statistics and 2010 年全国科技经费投入统计公报



As a practitioner in IT sector, I felt embarrassing and disappointed for Hong Kong when I saw the above figures.

Lastly, I would like to share my personal experience on the importance of strong commitment and long-term vision for technology development. I was one of system designers and team leaders for Hong Kong Octopus system in the early day. The Octopus system was conceived by MTRC, developed and owned by a consortium of 7 transportation companies in Hong Kong . At the early stages, the project had experienced many big problems with project delay and over-budget. Some of consortium companies had even redrawn from the initial trials due to short-term interest and consideration. However, with the strong commitment, long-term vision and planning of the remaining core consortium companies. The Octopus system had seen the light of the tunnel and became one of pride technology developments of Hong Kong.

I support the establishment of the Innovation and Technology Bureau with a strong leadership, commitment and long-term vision for Hong Kong. I hope I can be pride of Hong Kong Innovation and Technology development in future.

Yours faithfully,



Benny Lam

Director

Right Station Ltd.
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