

香港特別行政區政府  
政府資訊科技總監  
辦公室



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12 December 2014

Ms YUE Tin-po,  
Clerk to Panel on Information Technology and Broadcasting,  
Legislative Council Secretariat,  
1 Legislative Council Road,  
Hong Kong

Dear *Tin-po,*

**Panel on Information Technology and Broadcasting  
Facilitating a Digital Economy**

At Panel meeting on 22 July 2014, during discussion on Agenda Item V, “Progress Update on Digital Economy”, Members requested supplementary information on the following —

- (a) Government funding for research and development (R&D) on information and communications technology (ICT) products; and
- (b) effectiveness and follow-up of the event 「中小企和 IT 人有個約會」.

The requisite information is set out in the following paragraphs.

## **Government Funding for R&D on ICT**

The Government is committed to developing Hong Kong into a knowledge-based economy and an innovation hub. To this end, the Government established the Innovation and Technology Fund (ITF) in 1999 to provide funding support to applied R&D projects to promote innovation in manufacturing and service industries, which cover the ICT industry. As at end August 2014, ITF has provided funding support to over 4 100 projects, amounting to \$8.7 billion.

ICT is one of the major technology domains supported by ITF. Since 1999, ITF has provided funding support to 638 ICT-related R&D projects, amounting to \$2,370.4 million as at end August 2014. Details on ICT-related R&D projects funded by ITF in the past five years are set out at the *Annex*.

### **Effectiveness of 「中小企和IT人有個約會」**

Featuring short one-on-one sessions between SMEs and ICT companies, the event 「中小企和IT人有個約會」 provides opportunity for SMEs to know more about ICT solutions that may be suitable for their operations, as well as for local ICT companies to seek business collaboration with potential clients. Over 120 participants from 40 SMEs and 46 ICT companies took part in the two sessions held in April and June 2014, with the latter one targeting the travel industry. The expenditure required for organising one session is around \$13,000, mainly used for meeting facilities as well as refreshments for participants.

According to post-event surveys, participants found the sessions useful — SMEs gained a better understanding of how ICT could help grow their business, while ICT companies cherished the opportunity to expand their business network and appreciate SMEs' business requirements which would in turn help them develop ICT solutions for SMEs in future. Participants indicated that they would join again if the event is repeated in future and would recommend the event to other SMEs. Some SMEs also informed us that they had engaged participating ICT companies in implementing business solutions for them.

In view of the positive outcomes, we will continue to organise the event regularly using a sector-specific approach to promote wider adoption of ICT among SMEs.

Yours sincerely,



(Joey Lam)

for Government Chief Information Officer

Encl.

**ICT-related R&D Projects Funded by ITF in the Past Five Years**

<b>Period</b>	<b>Number of Projects</b>	<b>Funding Amount (\$ million)</b>
September 2009 to August 2010	52	186.2
September 2010 to August 2011	33	133.9
September 2011 to August 2012	38	118.4
September 2012 to August 2013	54	232.4
September 2013 to August 2014	51	212.2
<b>Five Year Total :</b>	<b>228</b>	<b>883.1</b>