

香港特別行政區政府

創新及科技局

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INNOVATION AND
TECHNOLOGY BUREAU

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE HONG KONG
SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGION

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By Post and E-mail

14 July 2016

Mr Daniel SIN,
Clerk to Panel on Information Technology and Broadcasting,
Legislative Council Complex,
1 Legislative Council Road,
Central, Hong Kong

Dear Mr SIN,

**Information Requested by
the Panel on Information Technology and Broadcasting
at the meeting on 9 May 2016**

At the meeting of the Panel on Information Technology and Broadcasting held on 9 May 2016, the Administration was requested to provide information on:

- (a) measures taken for enhancing the development of digital economy, including developing e-commerce, building data centres and nurturing talents, and how these measures contributed to the economy of Hong Kong; and
- (b) measures taken or to be taken by the Administration to address the manpower situation in the information and communications technology (“ICT”) industry.

The Government has been driving digital economy through different measures, including promoting e-commerce, supporting data centre development and nurturing talents, etc. Apart from the measures set out in LC Paper No. CB(4)926/15-16(05), the following supplementary information is provided for the Panel's reference.

Developing e-Commerce

E-Commerce is developing rapidly in recent years. According to information of the Census and Statistics Department, the value of e-Commerce sales in Hong Kong reached HK\$400.6 billion in 2014, representing a 41% increase from 2012.

To encourage and facilitate various sectors to grasp the opportunities of online business and e-Commerce, the Expert Group on E-commerce was established under the Working Group on Manufacturing Industries, Innovative Technology, and Cultural and Creative Industries of the Economic Development Commission in 2015. The Expert Group comprises members from the e-Commerce sector, local businesses as well as relevant government and public bodies. Through proactive contacts with industry associations and businesses, the Expert Group seeks to understand more about the development potential and current situation of e-Commerce in Hong Kong, with a view to making recommendations on how to improve supporting policies and measures.

Building Data Centres

Hong Kong is an international financial, trading and logistics hub, and is home to regional offices and headquarters of many global corporations. High-performance and secure data centre services are crucial for the operations of corporations in Hong Kong. With the advent of cloud computing and exponential increase in online data, the demand for data centre facilities and services is surging. At present, the gross floor area of local data centres has exceeded 460 000 m², representing an increase of nearly 50% from some 300 000 m² in 2012.

The Government actively facilitates the development of data centres, especially high-tier ones, in Hong Kong as the technology backbone for business operations. Apart from providing land for data centres, and setting up a Data Centre Facilitation Unit to provide support services to overseas and local enterprises interested in setting up data centres in Hong Kong, the Government has decided to extend the concessionary schemes for encouraging the conversion of eligible industrial buildings for data centre use and development of high-tier data centres on industrial lots, and to further streamline the procedures for issuing waivers for changing the use of industrial buildings into data centre use with a

view to expediting the approval of new applications within a shorter period of time (around two weeks).

Nurturing Talents

The Government has been encouraging young people to enter the information technology ("IT") sector through different initiatives. Apart from scouting and cultivating IT talents early in their secondary school years through the "Enriched IT Programme in Secondary Schools", we also cooperate with the industry to provide young people with practical working experience in the industry. For example, Cyberport has organised a series of Mainland and overseas internship programmes for ICT students to work in ICT companies in Shanghai, Fuzhou and Silicon Valley. Cyberport and the Hospital Authority have also jointly launched the three-year eHealth Record Internship Programme for graduates in ICT and healthcare-related disciplines from local tertiary institutions to take part in electronic health record projects or electronic health record-related work. In addition, Cyberport has also arranged for students to work in start-ups in the Cyberport community. This instils in the students the interest and enthusiasm for entrepreneurship on the one hand, and provides the needed manpower to start-up companies which often have difficulties in recruitment on the other.

We will continue to work closely with the industry and make reference to relevant statistics and information of the IT sector with a view to introducing measures at an appropriate time to encourage young people to enter the IT field.

Yours sincerely,



(Ricky CHONG)

for Secretary for Innovation and Technology

c.c.

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