



Date : 10th Dec, 2003

Thank you for offering us a chance to express comments on the Hong Kong SAR Government's IT directions on the Digital 21 Consultation Paper. Our company is a local independent software vendor and we are involved in hardware integration and software development. We would like to take this opportunity to provide some input to the HKSAR Government. Our comments are as follows:

Government Leadership

Government should foster all platforms of IT development and not on particular platform(s) and be neutral so that everyone may compete equally. In fact, competition provides a more ideal environment for innovation.

Government should also encourage common platform / standard systems so that data/document/format exchanges will be made easy among connected parties.

Government should not put too much emphasis on "open source" adoption, especially to the business sectors, since it will not provide any benefit to the IT industry. We will not be able to market open source software products since they do not carry copy right and software built on it will hardly be protected. If we invest marketing and sales efforts on them, we will hardly get any return on our investment. Without return (profit) from our development, it will deprive us from re-investment and hamper our software development business growth.

Government should invest more in incubating IT development, not just providing facilities (like the Science Park) but get involved in the investment of the business to solve the cash flow problem of the small and medium developers.

Infrastructure and Business Environment



We would like to point out that the enforcement of IPR protection in Hong Kong's software is still behind the developed countries. We feel that arresting the violators is not enough, we should spend more efforts on education in the IPR, especially to schools and our young generation to take a preventive measure rather than punishments. Meanwhile, punishment to violators should be harder so as to provide a threat.

We hope that our comments will be of value to you when compiling the final Digital 21 Paper.

Sincerely Yours,

Stephen Cheung
Chief Technology Officer