

**Re: Comments on Public Consultation Paper on 2004 Digital 21 Strategy**

1. Free flow of information is one of the most important key success factor contributes to the success of Hong Kong. To facilitate the sharing of information between Government departments and with the society, Government should support more data alignment projects, such as the Data Alignment Measures study with Housing, Planning and Lands Bureau, and the building of a community-wide Open Information Platform for public information sharing.
2. e-Government
  - 2.1 Government supplied information should be updated more timelily and more dynamically with the adoption of the latest technologies. Data collection for CRM or other purposes provide the best observational value as a result of day-to-day transactions rather than relying on occasional costly interviews and surveys, whenever possible. Data can be captured more efficiently through smart card transactions, linkage with commercial institutions with EDI over Internet, conduct surveys or gather public opinions with wireless and Internet technologies, etc. Government should pave for the way of transferring some of the data collection processes to an e-manner.
  - 2.2 Many Government planning functions at departmental / district levels have to be supported by small-area statistics and local needs analysis. As information analysts often said 80% of data are spatial; more employment of Geographical Information System(GIS) software, small-area statistics and statistical modeling include data mining should be employed.
3. Mainland China Strategy
  - 3.1 To facilitate local companies utilize the advantages of CEPA, the Government should support the construction of a CEPA Business Community Database. Such database helps SMEs to search for partners, business and investment opportunities in China and vice versa.
  - 3.2 The Government should encourage SMEs to adapt, develop and export their products and services to China.
  - 3.3 With rapid exchange and potential closer integration with PRD, a Cross-border Information Sharing Platform is considered vital for both Government functions and to flourish cross-border business matching.
4. We support the proposal to merge ITSD into CITB and have a CIO function within Government overseeing IT adoption strategy.