



My Mission: “Let IT Lead” (Part I)

My mission is to help bring about “product creation, business creation and job creation” within the IT industry. Only by doing so can we write a new chapter for Hong Kong and blaze a new trail for our industry. Hong Kong’s transformation into a high value-added economy depends on it, as does a new role for the IT industry. It is high time to “Let IT lead “.

“Let IT Lead” encompasses three levels:

1. IT as leading industry ---IT should be at the center of the new economy.

In the past 20 years, our factories have migrated northwards, turning our manufacturing economy into a service economy, with logistics and finance at its core. But against China’s spectacular economic rise, our four pillar industries—finance, logistics, tourism and business and commercial services—are facing enormous challenges, with severe physical limits to their growth. To cite just one example, as the mainland opens up its transportation system, and as our factories move farther north, our logistics industry faces very stiff competition. The time has now come for us to consider why we cannot do for the “flow of information” what we have done for the “flow of goods” and the “flow of money”. Looking ahead in the next decade, Hong Kong has no choice but to go the hi-tech route, with IT as its driving force.

In the last dozen or so years, neighboring economies such as Singapore, Korea and Taiwan, have all aggressively developed IT into a full industry, accounting for a significant portion of their GDP, and even becoming a key industry. The Singapore government, for one, has played a crucial role in this new development by setting long-term hi-tech strategies, strengthening education and research and assisting the outward reach of its enterprises, carving a niche in the international market, and successfully transforming itself into the new economic model. Hong Kong alone continues to struggle, unassisted by our government, and is in danger of being marginalized.

Actually, the warning signals have come from international rankings. According to the Global Competitiveness Report 2007-2008 by World Economic Forum, Hong Kong ranks 23rd, against 8th for Korea, 9th for Taiwan and 11th for Singapore. What’s more, our economic model lacks balance, being over-reliant on finance, property and old industries. It is now crunch time.



The good news is that Hong Kong's ICT industry has all the necessary conditions to develop into a full industry in its own right. Unfortunately, our government is obsessed with developing Hong Kong into a financial center and a logistics center. In its Digital 21 Strategy document, it defines ICT's role as supportive and secondary. I believe this is setting our sights too low and too narrow. The problem is compounded by the fact that the government is run by administrative officers who rotate through different portfolios every two or three years. They lack the expertise and the insights into our industry. The government has an overlapping and uncoordinated bureaucratic structure and lacks any long-term perspectives. As a result we have missed many golden opportunities. The final straw was when the government stripped "technology" from the name of one of its bureaus. It is indicative of the government's uncaring attitude about technological development. If we continue down this path, Hong Kong will lose its competitive edge.

Is it too late for Hong Kong to play catch-up in its ICT industry? I believe the opportunity is right under our very nose. The whole world is clamoring to go into the vast Chinese mainland market. Since the start of China's economic open-door policy, most of the Fortune-500 companies have bypassed Hong Kong and gone straight into the mainland. Hong Kong must now grasp its second chance, this time by making use of our CEPA advantages as a platform for facilitating IT firms from other countries for privileged entry into the mainland, while enjoying the full protection of their corporate rights under Hong Kong laws. The matter of utmost urgency is that we must treat IT as one of our pillar industries, grounded in Hong Kong, embracing the mainland and becoming an IT hub for Asia. If we fail to act quickly, our advantages will disappear.

I will therefore dedicate myself to working with our industry and our government to promote technological development. This includes:

- Advocating the setting up of the Technology Development Council, modeled on the highly successful Trade Development Council which has turned Hong Kong into a world-famous trading center. This council has the mission of focusing the wisdom and resources of the industry and the government to come up with long-term development strategies for our ICT industry.
- Attracting international IT firms to our city to establish operational and research centers here.
- Fighting to facilitate the migration of quality mainland IT companies to Hong Kong as their base for internationalizing their operations. By collaborating with these external companies, Hong Kong can become a platform for promoting quality IT products and services.



2. A leading role for IT in business creation, in writing a new chapter for our economy.

Hong Kong's success in the past several decades has come from continuous creative impulses, relying on the entrepreneurial drive of our small and medium size firms. We must not lose this creative impulse and this entrepreneurial drive to keep our growth potential alive.

IT stands out among the different industries in its numerous innovations and new ideas, such as RFID, NGN, IPV6, new media etc. It therefore also offers the most business creation potentials. For the creative and the ambitious, but cash-starved, IT can provide plentiful opportunities for wealth creation. Many young upstarts in the US have hit the big times in turning Google, Facebook and YouTube into super business successes. Bill Gates has even occupied the position as the world's richest man for 13 years through his Microsoft super-success.

Back in Hong Kong, we still face many hurdles. First, our market is too small. We must rely on the vast mainland market to make our mark. But to do so, we have to overcome many obstacles before we can transplant our successful business models onto the mainland.

Secondly, young IT entrepreneurs often lack funds to develop their business. The so-called angel investments have yet to take root in Hong Kong. Many of the young entrepreneurs have thus gone north to Beijing and Shanghai to try their luck. Hong Kong desperately needs caring investors who are willing to give up the fast-buck attitude and lend their support to IT start-ups.

Thirdly, Hong Kong's economy lacks diversity. Hong Kong's stock and property markets may be fairly robust. But these are mostly speculative transactions that require considerable wealth to generate profit. Most of our residents are either uninterested or uninformed about the new economy and the IT industry. Consequently, the IT-based creative industries have not received the respect and attention that they deserve.

Consequently, I will work hard to improve the environment for business creation. This effort will include the following:

- Pressuring the government to work closely with mainland authorities so that our IT industry will enjoy privileged access to mainland business opportunities. When this happens, the world can see that by creating or transplanting their business to Hong Kong, entrepreneurs will ride piggyback on our privileged position for speedy access to the Chinese market. One area in particular is the integration of Hong Kong's wireless communication service with that of the mainland. Another is to lobby mainland authorities to allow Hong Kong IT professionals to help establish product



standards for the nation, and even allow Hong Kong to be the testing ground for the nation's new technologies. All these spell abundant business opportunities.

- Pressuring the government to attract more overseas angel investors to Hong Kong, especially those with a good track record in the US. They will bring funds, investment experience and know-how plus international networks. Together with Hong Kong's splendid IT infrastructure, they will form a formidable force in nurturing the next generation of business creators, just as the Silicon Valley has done for the US.
- Promoting a culture favorable to corporate and social creativity—We need to raise the level of IT literacy of our people. This will unleash our creative potential by nurturing an inquisitive and curiosity-seeking spirit among the next generation, for they are the owners of our future.

3. Leader in job creation---Let IT lead, and let IT soar.

For prolonged periods of time, IT professionals have been cast only in a supporting role for other businesses. This doesn't mean that IT professionals are not important. But it does mean that they are not able to maximize their impact. If we look back at their recent history, the role of IT professionals has evolved continuously and their importance and influence have increased steadily. It has evolved from data processing to information management, then from process management to business management and is moving towards business intelligence. It can be safely said that in future, all successful enterprises will have IT as their core competency. IT professionals are destined to play a pivotal role in the success or failure of enterprises. This is clear from the example of the most sophisticated banks that rely heavily on IT professionals to drive their business, offering multiple services online.

But if IT remains in a secondary role in Hong Kong, it will only be a supporting cast, and this will severely limit the growth of our industry. The Hong Kong economy is already predominantly a service economy. This being the case, IT professionals will be the catalysts of corporate internal change, turning the workflow and business logic into an IT function or an IT product. This will enable our various industries to break out of our domestic market. To take just one example, the Octopus card was originally designed to serve the needs of our mass transit system fare system. But after continuous refinements, it has become a friendly tool in the hands of various sales sectors, and has turned into a highly exportable product. This is an excellent example of how IT has generated new business possibilities. If this trend continues, the status of IT professionals will be enhanced, and the IT department embedded in various enterprises will change from being a "cost center" into a "business driver" that powers our economic growth.



As things now stand, the career opportunities for IT professionals are limited and their career path is severely restricted. We now have reasons to worry that we may be unable to attract talented students to enroll in IT courses, while at the same time, enterprises are starved of IT talents. The risk of this “skills gap” is real. I blame it on the government’s failure to assist IT in becoming an engine in our economic growth. Hong Kong has become an undisputed financial center. By the same token, Hong Kong has every reason to believe that it can also become an IT center for the region. If and when this happens, our IT professionals will be able to serve the needs of the entire region, creating numerous job opportunities and raising the professional status of its workers. It is time Hong Kong enterprises realize that IT professionals have the capacity to become “value creators” for our businesses. There is much room for improvement.

I truly believe IT professionals are value creators, capable of expanding and extending our market reach. One of the as yet unrealized IT potentials is that it can break through physical barriers and boundaries, linking people with people, and people with goods. We can become an interconnected world, enjoying limitless opportunities.

I therefore pledge to commit myself to realizing the potential of the IT professionals, so that they become the core of our enterprises. My plan of action includes:

- Urging the government to work closely with mainland authorities to fight for Hong Kong’s role as the regional ICT center within the framework of the nation’s next 5-Year Plan. Hong Kong enjoys enormous advantages as a platform to serve the IT needs of the mainland and the region. With our freedom of information, protection of intellectual property rights and telecommunications infrastructure, our IT services can radiate throughout the region.
- Urging the government to adopt measures that promote a corporate culture that is conducive to IT development, turning our IT department from a service provider into a growth engine. This will result in the internal innovation within the various enterprises, spurring many of them to evolve into IT-based businesses, turning out more creative IT workers and IT knowledge workers. One of the consequences may be the productization of our modern business services, streamlining the workflow of our services and exporting them beyond our borders.
- Urging the government to set itself up as a model to actively promote IT professional Qualifications Framework (QF), developing a mechanism in harmony with mainland authorities on mutual recognition of professional qualifications. This will pave the way for an international standardization of IT qualifications, so that our IT workers can see a ladder of career progress on a wider plane as their status rises in society.

The key to Hong Kong’s economic transformation may well lie in the role we assign to IT. I deeply



believe that if the government sets up a Technology Development Council to develop long-term IT policies, it will allow IT talents to unleash their creative powers and become value creators for our industries. IT will offer our city its limitless possibilities and powers, and IT professionals will be proud agents of change in our economy.

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On a different front, I will take our industry's social responsibilities seriously, including the vigorous defense of our core values.

Legislators who belong to functional constituencies have a duty to bring the voice and concerns of their respective sectors into the legislative chamber, to the overall benefit of our community. In the case of the IT industry, there is no conflict between the interest of the IT industry and that of the community at large. In fact, IT will be a creative factor in transforming our economy.

As a Legislative Councillor, I will dedicate myself to solving the problems that have been eating away at our industry. At the same time, I will engage myself in studying the livelihood issues that affect our entire community. You can count on my support in matters that will be mutually beneficial to our industry and the community. I will act with independence, rationality and inclusiveness to work in harmony with legislators from various political parties in upholding our overall interest and the high degree of autonomy of Hong Kong people governing Hong Kong that is enshrined in the "One Country Two Systems" concept under our Basic Law. It is time to break the deadlock between the pro-government parties and the opposition forces. This is a polarization we don't need. I stand for democratic development of our political system. I am in favor of implementing popular direct election of both the Chief Executive and the Legislative Council. I am further in favor of enlarging the 2012 Election Committee so that it becomes more representative of our people. I want to see the early arrival of an open and fair electoral system where there is genuine choice. As always, I will defend Hong Kong's fundamental freedoms, rule of law and human rights. These are values dear to our hearts. These are values that will spell justice for our society, so that our people will live in a community that enjoys fairness, freedom and high quality of life. A truly upwardly mobile society is the true foundation for a truly harmonious society in which the rights of the underprivileged receive equal consideration and protection.

I am a true Hong Konger by birth. This is where I grew up and found my footing. I owe much to my community, and I am eager and determined to return to my society what I have gained from it. This is a society where every person should be allowed to find his or her own level. Only then will our



legendary success “Under the Lion Rock” continue from generation to generation.

My message is simple: to create a new chapter for Hong Kong, IT must be allowed to create a new chapter for itself, and in doing so help create Hong Kong’s most glorious chapter in its history. It is time to “Let IT Lead”.



My Mission (Part II)

Ten most important issues

1. Telecommunications

Urge the government to amend the telecommunications and broadcasting ordinances, and expedite the merger of the telecommunications and broadcasting regulatory bodies

HK's telecommunications industry has always been highly open. The rapidly booming market is enjoying the lowest charges in the region, thanks to the good work of the Office of the Telecommunications Authority (OFTA)'s years-long efforts in opening up the market. Nevertheless, it seems that OFTA has been acting too passive in recent years, and choosing to leave the market to develop by itself. Nowadays, the Internet is everywhere in the world, and media interflow has become the global trend of the day. A single platform could support not only telephone line, but also broadcasting and Internet services. With the market evolving rapidly, many unreasonable or unclear grey areas in the existing regulatory framework of HK emerge. Also, the overlaps of functionality between different regulatory bodies appear. For instance, the Telecommunications Ordinance governs the mobile TV or interactive TV services, whereas the Broadcasting Ordinance regulates the TV broadcasting and restricts the ownership of cross-industry mass media. Internet TV is, however, in the no-regulation zone. This serves to prove that the existing governance framework of telecommunications and mass media industries by the OFTA and Broadcasting Authority has become outdated and inappropriate in the face of exploding technology development. And this would easily lead to unfair competition. Amending the related ordinances and merging the two regulatory bodies to form the new "Communications Authority" has long been a hot proposal. I urge the government to expedite the merger of these two regulatory bodies so as to match the demands of the rapidly developing markets.

Urge the regulatory authority to relax the restriction on cross media ownership, so that mass media enterprises are able to create synergistic effects

The government plans to kick start the paid mobile TV services in HK by 2010, and tends to adopt a more open regulatory framework, exempting the enterprises from the cross media ownership restriction. This is a golden opportunity to review the restriction on cross media ownership, in my view.



The restriction has two key points. Firstly, it is the status of the owners. The regulation requires that all media owners must be HK citizens so as to avoid foreign enterprises from controlling the domestic mass media. Secondly, it is the restriction on ownership rights. Operators running one type of mass media cannot operate the other types, so as to avoid the conflicts of interest between different types of mass media operation, and the monopoly and thus absolute control over mass media. However, multinational enterprises prevail in today's highly globalized market, and this renders the restrictions outdated and of little practical use. As a matter of fact, the emergence of new technology like satellite TV, cable TV, and IPTV, etc has blurred the boundaries between different mass media operations. Regulations targeting only the radio and television industries become all the more inappropriate. When the global network enters the Web 2.0 era, Internet will become the mighty source of information dissemination. It would be next to impossible for enterprises to monopolize and control mass media. This information age revolution is something unimaginable at the time when the regulations were set.

Therefore, I will urge the regulatory bodies to aptly relax the restrictions on cross media ownership. HK is striving to develop creative industries and become a knowledge-based economy. It should therefore encourage the entry of multinational enterprises so as to create synergistic effects between different mass media. Only then could we attract multinational enterprises to invest in HK, and to gain the regional competitive advantage and excel in the international market.

Enhance the function and power of the Telecommunications Users and Consumers Advisory Committee (UCAC)

According to the statistical data of Consumer Council, telecommunications and paid TV services rank top on the citizens' complaint list. I suggest that OFTA should be actively involved in the matter, and the functionality of the Telecommunications Users and Consumers Advisory Committee (UCAC) should be enhanced. Members from the telecommunications industry should be included, and with an aim to protect the interest of customers, customers' feedback could be collected, so that useful and positive suggestions could be related to the telecommunications operators.

Monitor the progress on the government's WiFi infrastructure building, striving for the ultimate interconnectivity between public and private sectors

The government has proposed its plan to develop a comprehensive WiFi infrastructure. This is an important milestone for HK to emerge and become a truly international information city. However, the progress has been far from satisfactory since the plan's kick-off. Therefore, I will



urge the government to fulfill and expedite its promises and develop a WiFi network with wide coverage. The government could also collaborate with private WiFi services operators, so as to facilitate the ultimate interconnectivity between public and private sectors. This will allow every citizen to access the Internet through wireless network by his/her single registered account.

Strive for the mainland market opening up to HK enterprises, so as to strengthen HK's role as the regional telecommunications hub

On Jun 30 this year, a group of representatives from HK ICT industry and I attended the Guangdong – HK ICT Collaboration Meeting. We actively proposed to the Guangdong government officials the idea of “Closer collaboration on ICT region”, pushing forward a number of collaborative programmes for the telecommunications industry. These include firstly, allowing HK enterprises to obtain the ICP licenses in Mainland China, so that HK enterprises could own the ICP licenses by themselves. Or that HK enterprises are to collaborate with mainland enterprises in owning the licenses (HK enterprises own 51% shareholdings). This will provide HK ICP chances to participate in Guangdong related projects. Secondly, is to allow HK enterprises to obtain the MVAS licenses, and explore the possibility of setting up “Guangdong HK wireless applications collaboration center”. Hopefully, HK enterprises could get different licenses for telecommunications services on the mainland. Thirdly, is to allow HK enterprises set up Internet data center in Guangdong province, so that HK enterprises could get involved in the Internet data projects in Guangdong province. I hope that these open policies could be tried first in the Guangdong-HK collaboration exercises, and once the efficacy is proven, to be extended to cover the whole country afterwards. The HK telecommunications industry will reap great development opportunities from it, and this will greatly help develop HK to become the regional telecommunications hub.

2. Engineering

Urge the government to take the lead in promoting intelligent buildings, and widely applying IT for energy saving

Environmental protection is now a global issue. According to statistics, buildings in HK consume 89% of electricity power. Intelligent buildings adopting sensors and IT technology could adjust aptly their illumination, air conditioning and facilities like elevators, so as to enhance energy efficiency. Though the building costs would be higher, the savings from electrical bills would more than compensate the extra building costs in the long run. Also, the process of global warming would be slowed and atmosphere condition improved. I will



therefore urge the government to take the lead in promoting intelligent buildings.

Moreover, despite the government's recent proposal to present the "Building Energy Codes" for public consultation, those proposed codes were adopted in 1998 (9 years old). These standards apparently are outdated. I will urge the government to amend the law as quickly as possible, requiring all new buildings to be equipped with energy saving facilities. Also, a grace period could be provided for existing buildings to improve their energy saving capability. If necessary, interest free loan could be provided for those property owners having financial difficulties. In this way, IT application would be greatly enhanced and HK will also be renowned for its superb environmental protection initiatives.

Urge the Government to help and facilitate the establishment of shared underground utility information center

The management and survey on underground pipes and network has long been unfamiliar to most people. However, as poor management of underground pipes has led to a number of mishaps in recent years, people are starting to realize that their properties or even lives are at stake if this issue continues to be left unattended and poorly managed. This being the case, I will urge the government to help and facilitate the industry in establishing a shared underground utility information center, so as to create a comprehensive IT data warehouse on underground pipes and network for the use of both public and private sectors in HK. In this way, underground space could be better used, and mishaps due to inadvertent digging of pipelines could be avoided. This in turn will provide greater protection to people's properties and lives. I will also urge the government to invest more resources in helping the industry to set up standards and provide professional training, so that a good team of well trained pipeline operators and engineers could be developed.

Urge the government to set up an advanced intelligent transportation system as soon as possible

Intelligent Transport Systems and Services, ITS, is an advanced information and telecommunications system that could integrate information on the transportation infrastructure, automobile and road usage conditions. Through real-time sharing of this important information, it allows citizens to make the most efficient and safe use of the transportation system, and minimizes the environmental pollution. The latest generation of ITS like ERTICO adopted by Europe could also ensure the safety distance between cars on road. Through continual information exchange between automobiles and the data center, drivers could better understand the road condition and road safety could thus be highly enhanced.



Despite HK's substantial investment in transportation infrastructure in the past few decades, its investment in adopting ICT intelligent transportation system is far behind other developed countries. Therefore, I will urge the government to expedite establishing an intelligent transportation system in HK. For instance, the government should speed up the launching of the Transport Information System (TIS) and Intelligent Road Network (IRN), which are expected to be shipped and launched* within this year. The government should also learn from other developed countries of their experience in using the advanced comprehensive ICT intelligent transportation system.

Urge the government to enhance and promote the professional status and social recognition of engineers

At present, the professional status and social recognition of engineers in HK is, in general, on the low side. Despite a university-graduated engineer having to go through years of professional training, and pass stringent professional examinations, his/her professional status has not received due recognition in society. This is especially the case for IT engineers. The government, HKIE and Engineers Registration Board have provided statutory registration for professional engineers, but this only covers civil engineers, architects, and structural engineers. For IT engineers, many companies are not employing professional people to handle their IT problems. Therefore, I will urge the government to take a serious look at the problem and try its best to enhance and promote the professional status and social recognition of engineers. New laws could be set to protect the interest of the profession, and to uphold the recognition of IT engineers' professional status. At the same time, the government could help the professional bodies in negotiating with the mainland engineering organizations, so as to promote the mutual recognition of professional status and help HK engineers to venture into the mainland market.

3. Education & manpower training

Urge the government to take the lead in advertising and promoting IT industry, so as to attract more young talents to take IT courses

According to the statistical research of a HK civil think tank, the "new generation" Hong Kongers, i.e. those born in the 80s and grew up in the late 90s, do not appreciate the importance of IT industry, even though they have been immersed and surrounded by the new technology environment their parents could not have ever imagined. These new generation people opined that of the 7 career categories, the satisfactory level of internet industry ranks the second worst, only 36%, just a tad higher than the retail, catering and hotel industry (30%). This result is indeed in line with the government's attitude of not treasuring technology in the past years. As a



matter of fact, the IT education in HK nowadays is such that resources will only be invested in improving technology and hardware. Trees are seen but not the forest, and there is an obvious lack of sustainable development strategy or long-term goal. An industry without a clear foreseeable future certainly cannot attract talents, and the university recruitment result reflects vividly this predicament. IT related faculties were previously the hot subjects pursued by top students. But that was then. Obviously, the government must show its greater commitment and immediately review the overall IT education. Otherwise, there is no impetus to push forward the IT industry.

I will urge the government to take the lead in enhancing the collaboration between the industry and mass media, and organize activities together with various universities, Hong Kong Science & Technology Parks, and Cyberport to promote and advertise the IT industry. We need to make parents aware that the IT industry is never a sunset industry. Instead, it is the prime industry that could lead HK to evolve and become a new economy. It is hoped that more brilliant youngsters would take IT courses in their higher education, creativity could be brought out, and new directions could be successfully explored.

Review the 2002 report of “Higher Education in Hong Kong”, sponsor more non-degree IT courses

There are many organizations in HK that are responsible for training different IT talents. Their roles however seem uncoordinated and unrelated, and there is no systematic integration of their functions. We should have a systematic way of training IT talents, so that there will not be mismatch or overlap on the resources of different training organizations. In the 2002 report of “Higher Education in Hong Kong” issued by the University Grants Committee (UGC), commonly known as Sutherland Report, one of the suggestions adopted by the government is that except for certain specific courses, all the sub-degree courses organized by various colleges or universities should be self-sustainable, i.e. being responsible for profit and loss. This includes also the higher diploma courses of IVE, and as a result, subsidization for many IT courses was scrapped. Since the privatization of these training courses, the resources and training quality have been adversely affected. Heavy burden has been imposed on the students, which in turn leads to difficulties in recruiting students for some colleges. Some colleges are forced to lower the recruitment standards and requirements in order to broadening the student recruitment base.

Nowadays, with the rapid development of IT industry, and also data and customer services centers of many large enterprises are relocated back to HK, local demand for IT talents is on the increasing trend. Cinema computer graphics and game industries require large amount of IT



talents. As such, I will urge the government to immediately review 2002 report of “Higher Education in Hong Kong”, so that sponsorships could be provided for more non-degree IT courses and more IT talents be developed to satisfy the market needs.

Urge the government to work closely with the industry to set up the Center for Technology and Innovation Management

I will push the government in collaborating with the industry on jointly setting up the Center for Technology & Innovation Management. This center will be focused on IT related research work, so as to generate research results and provide international references for cultivating IT talents, and broadening the vision of students, guiding wandering, out of the box thinking to evolve and become useful and practical business models. At the same time, I will make use of my industry network to solicit industrial savvy for preaching their valuable experience and knowledge to the students, and also providing the students more precious on-job practice and training opportunities. It is hoped that through broadening the IT students’ vision, they could contribute new ideas to the industry after graduated, or become entrepreneurs themselves.

Push the universities to make technology education courses as the prime considered subject when recruiting new students

After the new 3-3-4 academic structure is in place, Form 4 students will need to take only 2-3 mandatory subjects during their high school years. It is likely that fewer students will opt for ICT courses, and as a result, there may be mismatch between high school curriculum and the university recruitment requirements. This will cast adverse impacts on HK’s endeavor on developing a new economy driven by IT industry. I will strive to urge the government to invest enough resources to ensure that HK secondary schools will run good quality technology education programmes, like “Design & application technology”, or “Information & telecommunications technology”. Also, I will fight to push the universities in making technology education programmes as one of the prime considered subjects when recruiting university students, so that more brilliant students would be attracted to take technology courses during their high school years.

Urge the government to include ICT courses as subsidized subjects of the Continuing Education Fund

The purpose of launching the Continuing Education Fund (CEF) by the government is to promote life-long learning for people. However, it is very odd that ICT courses are not included in the subsidization list. In today’s world, where ICT is playing such an increasingly important role, this policy should be reviewed and revamped immediately. I will urge the government to



increase the funding of the CEF and include the ICT courses as the subsidized items, so that more people could take on related on-job training and improve their competitiveness.

4. Research & Development

Urge the government to progressively step up the research fund for supporting R&D in HK

In the 2008 fiscal budget, the government has announced a one-off funding of \$18 billion in setting up a research fund. Based on a more conservative return of 5%, the estimated yearly investment return would be \$900 million. This represents an increase when comparing to the existing actual funding. However, as HK's universities are going to change from a 3-year curriculum system to a 4-year one, the number of lecturers and professors will increase, and research projects and funding should follow in tandem. I will urge the government to make its long-term commitment, and promise to use part of the future fiscal surpluses to step up the investment in this research fund. The ultimate goal is to enlarge the fund to \$40 billion in size so as to continuously support certain thematic research projects that are conducive to HK's long-term technology development.

Moreover, the existing funding supports only university research, the so-called up-stream industries. For the mid- and down-stream industries including research on technology application and products commercialization, there is now a lack of supportive policies or resources. Even if the up-stream industry is well equipped with the best research capability, without the corresponding match and support from the mid- and down-stream industries, HK's technology development would still lack "dynamic flow" and end up like a pool of dead water. In order to make use of the research fund efficiently, I will also urge the government to delineate clearly its technology policy, and to review and plan for a holistic technology strategy that could take care of the up-, mid- and down-stream industries.

Urge the government to increase the ratio of postgraduate students over undergraduate students, striving to get in line with the international level

All first class universities in the world are research based universities, and are renowned for their remarkable research achievements. The postgraduate to undergraduate student ratios of these universities are mostly close to 1:1. Other characteristics include openness and high degree of internationalization. Most will have overseas to local student ratio above 20%. HK has eight high level universities, all equipped with the best teaching facilities and high quality lecturers and professors. However, judging from the above standards, our universities are still not up to standard as compared to those first class global universities. As HK is taking stride



towards becoming a knowledge-based economy, our society's demand for talents will change for high caliber ones. As such, I will urge the government to invest more resources on universities so as to gradually increase the postgraduate to undergraduate student ratios. Moreover, more talents from overseas and Mainland China could be attracted to study master or PhD degrees in HK. This could not only enhance the research capability of HK's universities, but also satisfy the demand for high caliber talents, and make HK universities in par with the global first class counterparts.

Urge the government to provide tax break and encourage small and medium enterprises (SMEs) to participate in R&D activities

IT is the key driving force in pushing forward economic development in most developed countries. HK however has been acting in the reverse way. Most industries have been paying little attention to R&D, and taking IT development very lightly. The R&D spending constitutes only 0.7% of HK's GDP, which is a far cry from our neighboring economies. For instance, Taiwan's ratio is 2.45%, Singapore 2.8%, South Korea 2.99%, and Japan 3.35%. To promote R&D activities in HK, the government needs to invest more resources, and the industries have to actively participate and match up. Therefore, I will urge the government to provide tax break to encourage small and medium enterprises to actively participate in R&D activities. In this way, SMEs would augment their use on IT, which in turn, will help transform those SMEs to suit the knowledge-based economy.

Urge the government to expedite on consolidating technology research funding, so as to create larger synergistic effects

The existing research organization framework of HK is intricate and complex, and with overlaps of resources. I will urge the government to expedite on consolidating technology research resources and funding. The government needs to delineate the roles and positions of HK's five research centers, namely ASTRI, HKPC, Cyberport, and HKSTP. Their responsibility and functions should be reviewed and clarified so that more synergistic effects could be cultivated.

Urge the government to step up investments on forging closer Guangdong-HK research collaboration

Presently, the Innovation and Technology Fund (ITF) has the Guangdong-Hong Kong Technology Cooperation Funding Scheme (TCFS) in place which has achieved some results in the past. However, I will urge the government to invest more resources on pushing forward closer Guangdong-HK ICT collaboration. Forging deeper integration on technology front between the two regions could allow HK's IT industry to actively participate in standard setting



exercises of our mother country, and this would help HK enterprises to explore the mainland market successfully.

5. Internet

Urge the government to escalate Internet & new media policies to the core strategic level

Internet has changed the world. Getting hold of the Internet technology and development doubtlessly will be highly conducive to HK's economic and cultural developments. In recent years, the new generation Hong Kongers have not paid due regard to the Internet or related technology industries, despite that they could make the good use of Internet. The crucial point is that the government, enterprises, and even general population consider Internet and related technology as services provider only. Few will take it to the core strategy level. As such, I will urge the government to heighten the issues concerning Internet and new media to the core strategic level, so that new policies when developed will be in tandem with the latest developments, and new and multiple perspectives, especially those with new technology thinking, could be taken into consideration. Innovative industries should work well and match with the IT industry, so as to create more valuable outcomes for the new economy. Also, the professional status of IT and innovative industry workers could be enhanced, so that more brilliant youngsters would take Internet industry as their life long careers.

Attract more multinational enterprises to set up data centers in HK, and make HK the Asian Internet hub

Since Internet is playing an ever more important role in the ICT industry, I will strive for formulating more favorable government policies like providing tax break and land subsidy to attract more multinational enterprises to set up data centers in HK. Also, the government should strengthen our Internet infrastructure so as to make HK the Asian Internet hub, enabling HK to develop real e-business. We should group together market resources to expand the business potential.

Urge for the mainland authority to relax the limitations on HK enterprises applying ICP licenses

Presently, HK enterprises are not allowed to solely own ICP licenses on the mainland. I will strive to urge the mainland authorities to relax the limitations on HK enterprises applying for ICP licenses, so that HK enterprises could either own the licenses by themselves, or with 51% controlling stake, pair up with mainland enterprises in applying for ICP licenses.



Urge the government to review the current copyright laws, and work with the industry to promote Creative Common

The rapid development of Internet has changed the way we communicate and comprehend of our surroundings. It allows people to share and interact within the Internet world, anytime, anywhere, and every web-surfer could enjoy the right and space to freely speak or express himself /herself. In other words, Internet is more than just a tool. It has changed our human culture. On the other hand, a completely free Internet world carries with it some social problems, and makes the problem of intellectual property protection all the more acute. As such, I will urge the government to review the current copyright laws so that a favorable business environment could be fostered which could live up with the rapid development pace, and strike a fine balance between copyright protection and the development of innovation industry. I will also urge the government to work with the industry to promote Creative Common. The development and application of open source code software programmes should be promoted. The new generation should be taught to appreciate the value of creativity. Our society should treasure and share creativity thoughts, while on the other hand, respect intellectual properties. And this is the only way the development of Internet could be sustained.

Oversee the amendments of the Control of Obscene and Indecent Articles Ordinance, and push for public surveillance on unhealthy websites

Nowadays, obscene and violence prevails in the Internet world. But due to the ever-changing nature of the Internet world, it is very difficult to completely ban young people from contacting these unhealthy information or websites, and this causes parents and teachers much worry. Therefore, I will monitor the government and oversee the work on amending the Control of Obscene and Indecent Articles Ordinance (COIAO). The control on promulgation of obscene and filthy information over the Internet should be strengthened. I will also push for public surveillance on unhealthy websites, so that other than resorting to the legal system, we could develop a balanced mechanism and a platform where parents and teachers could be involved to contain the problem. We ought to build a healthy Internet world together.



6. Technology collaboration between Mainland China and HK

Urge the government to negotiate with the mainland government, and to strive for HK enterprises not being treated as foreign players

Guangdong and HK collaboration first started with the manufacturing industry. The availability of land and labor resources in Guangdong, together with HK's competitive advantages on commercial affairs, legal system and management expertise, has created a win-win endgame for both sides. I believe that this collaborative synergy should also be applied on the development of ICT industry, which would then improve the competitiveness of HK's future knowledge-based economy. I will urge the government to negotiate with the mainland government, and push for not treating HK enterprises as foreign players. Industries like cinema could serve as an example where HK enterprises are treated differently from foreign overseas enterprises. For those industries that limit the accessibility by foreign enterprises, like the game business, HK enterprises should be allowed to take a higher shareholding stake. Also, the HK government should work with the Guangdong government in pushing for Central government to allow Guangdong province to act as a pilot province, where application time for licenses could be shortened, and collaboration between two sides could be facilitated.

Urge the government to help HK ICT enterprises to obtain national treatment as domestic players

After the 1997 handover, HK has been increasingly integrated with our motherland. HK has established collaborative and interactive channels with the local governments of Guangdong and Pearl River Delta region. However, the collaboration on technology industries between the two sides has been rather inactive. HK government considers that basing on the "one country two systems" principle, Guangdong and HK should be kept separated, and this has hindered the development of mutual trust between the two sides. The collaborative relationship is just superficial and closer coordination work has been stifled. Presently, HK enterprises in certain industries are not allowed to operate business on their own on the mainland. The shareholding stake is limited to below 50%. I believe that under the premise of "one country", HK enterprises should be treated equally as mainland domestic players, and enjoy national treatment. As such, I will urge the government to help HK IT enterprises in securing national treatment as the mainland players.

Urge the government to expedite the plan on exploiting Lok Ma Chau Loop for developing high technology industry

The plan on exploiting Lok Ma Chau Loop has been proposed for over 10 years. The



technology industries from HK and Shenzhen always consider that this area is most suitable for develop new high technology. They have thus suggested establishing the “Shenzhen / Hong Kong Innovation Circle”, so that HK’s strength on commercial dealings and creativity could match well with the technology experts on the mainland to develop new high technology. In the recent public consultation seminar organized by the Planning Department, I actively called on 30 representatives from 10 odd IT professional bodies to attend the seminar. However, the government has yet proposed a concrete plan to exploit the region, despite that it has the due authority. As such, I will urge the government to expedite the exploitation plan, and make the region a development base for commercialization of modern services. This will be a good opportunity to push forward the technology collaboration between Shenzhen and HK.

Urge the government to set up “The Expert Group on Hong Kong / Guangdong ICT Industry Development ” under the Hong Kong / Guangdong Co-operation Joint Conference

Presently, the HK IT industry has met many difficulties on developing businesses on the mainland market, and this could only be solved at the policy level. For instance, despite that there are 7 System Integration (SI) enterprises in HK possessing the “SI quality accreditation”, none of them has been able to successfully bid tender on the mainland market. And due to taxation issue, mainland enterprises are not willing to outsource SI projects to HK enterprises. HK government should work out with Mainland China to allow HK enterprises to bid for mainland projects, either by themselves alone or in collaboration with mainland enterprises. HK’s professional expertise coupling with the vast mainland market potential could achieve win-win endgame for both regions. As such, I will urge the government to set up “The Expert Group on Hong Kong / Guangdong ICT Industry Development ” under the Hong Kong / Guangdong Co-operation Joint Conference, so that the government could swiftly handle all the issues and problems encountered by the industry, and pave the way for closer technology collaboration between the two regions.

Urge the government to help HK IT industry to participate in the setting of national standards, or make HK as the testing ground for new technology

Currently, the government has not been making the good use of CEPA, and this is why HK IT industry is still unable to grasp hold the huge development opportunity of our motherland. Therefore, I will urge the government to help the industry via different channels like “Guangdong HK technology collaboration subsidization plan”, so that HK IT industry is allowed to participate in the setting of national standards. Or that HK could be chosen as the national testing ground for new technology, so that new technology like digital television or



mobile television could be tested in HK, and once successful, be promoted and launched countrywide. This will forge closer collaboration between universities and enterprises of the two regions. And through collaborative research could more business opportunities and thus larger industry scale be created and more different types of IT work be developed.

7. Improve Business Environment and Develop Overseas Market

Promote productization of modern services and assist SMEs develop overseas business

Hong Kong is a world-class leader in services, such as railway management, airport management, passenger management, cargo logistics, banking, telecommunications, hotel and restaurant business. We can productize the good practices and experiences of these services into service management knowledge, package or even workflow software. This is a direction for the Hong Kong software industry to go in order to enter overseas market. Therefore, I am committed to the promotion of the productization of modern services. For instance, I advocate the setting up of a modern services productization development base in the Lok Ma Chau Loop.

Promote productization of Information Technology and export products to the global market

In the past, the Trade Development Council (TDC) was set up to promote the trading industry and help SMEs to develop overseas market. IT services have become increasingly important in knowledge-based economy. The Government should set up some incentive policy to help SMEs to develop overseas business, e.g. help the IT industry to work with Mainland organizations to open up market in the Middle East. In this connection, TDC can assume a more positive role in creating more opportunities for the IT industry, for example, by promoting Hong Kong's ICT services via its publications and website, or making available a "HKICT Directory". Besides, TDC should subsidize HK SMEs to participate in international ICT competitions and exhibitions.

Press the authorities to improve IT project tender system and contract terms, so as to include SMEs

Government tender requirements are very demanding, hence SMEs have difficulties in meeting the requirements. The existing tender system tends to favor the lowest tender, which undoubtedly forces the tenders into fierce price competition. The low price, of course, affects the quality of service. Therefore, I will press the authorities to improve the project tender system and contract terms, so as to reflect the actual IT requirements, to suitably include the SMEs and to take quality as well as price into consideration. Take for example, quality and price should be



considered together in any tendering exercise. This will help raise Hong Kong's IT service quality and help the development of SME business. Under this system, localization should also be encouraged, so that the professionally qualified IT talents may have more chance to participate and develop.

Press the government to encourage the adoption of Open Standard and Application Program Interface (API)

At present, the government adopts proprietary documentation format, and not open standard format. Neither does it encourage the use of open source codes. I will press the Government to encourage the use of open standard. Knowing “open standard” is an ongoing trend, the Government should adopt open source documentation standard according to ISO 26300, and at the same time support the release of open source codes. This will help Hong Kong IT industry to progress. Furthermore, systems financed by the government are assets of the public. The government should ask the suppliers to release the source codes, or at least provide open API, so that other operators can develop more value-added services on the same platform.

Press the government to take a more active role to train and develop its IT personnel

A good number of the government's IT staff are employed on contract terms or redeployed through internal arrangement. The current contract employment terms are not attractive enough to the better-qualified personnel. The lack of professional advancement opportunity also affects the staff morale and the stability of IT departments. Therefore, I will press the government to take a more active role in developing internal IT talents. I suggest that the government should consider allowing contract IT staff having good performance and have service contract renewed (i.e. those who have served 6 years or more) to become permanent civil servants. The government should encourage them to join professional bodies and continue professional development. A review of the post of “Analyst / Programmer” should be carried out to consider its suitability to become a professional grade.

8. Information Security

Press the government to strengthen the role of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data and set up a standing Information Security Committee

With the advance of Web 2.0, sharing technologies and their enabling power have reached new levels. However, they also have brought about unprecedented challenges to IT security and personal data privacy, necessitating the Government and enterprises to step up their IT security technologies. Repeated incidents of electronic data leakage due to human negligence have also



highlighted the lack of data protection awareness on the part of some IT management. Despite the Government has guidance and instruction, the education and monitoring of data protection are still far from being adequate and effective. This situation may be attributed to the fact that the importance of the IT department is somewhat overlooked by the Government and enterprises.

Through working with the Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data (PCPD), being a consultant of its designated Inspection Team and visiting the personal data system of the Hospital Authority, I have gained insights into the problem. For this reason, I will press the government to strengthen the role of PCPD in information security, to set up a standing Information Security Committee, to allow participation by representatives of the IT industry, to support the industry in the design of more effective information security system and to provide information security education to the public.

Press the government to set up an information security report mechanism to increase transparency

Based on the experience of some foreign countries, e.g. the State of California in USA, it is a statutory requirement to report incidents of information leakage. I will press the government to take the lead to set up an information security mechanism to improve transparency and to promote awareness of the significance of information security. For practical reasons, the work relating to the release of reported incidents may be centralized by PCPD.

Press the government to set up an Information Security Certification Matching Fund for the SMEs

I will press the Government to allocate resources to help promote the certification of information security management system according to ISO 27001 or COBIT. I will also press for the establishment of an Information Security Certification Matching Fund and encourage SMEs to apply, so as to improve information security and governance in the enterprises. In this way, Hong Kong's information security may set new global standard.

Press the government to conduct annual information security audit and promote information security education to the public

I will ask the government to allocate resources to conduct annual information security audit in all Departments and inform the public of the result. I will also press the government to add resources to increase public education on information security and effectively disseminate the latest information on this subject.



Press the Government to strengthen the role of the Hong Kong Computer Emergency Response Team Coordination Centre (HKCERT)

At present, HKCERT obviously does not have enough resources and powers. I will ask the government to review the role and functions of HKCERT. Consideration should be given to the establishment of a department, to provide regular resources, to increase its responsibility and powers, so that it can positively monitor Hong Kong's network infrastructure.

9. E-participation and E-government

Press the government to improve governance through the use of information technology

The experience of some foreign countries tells us that despite the enormous investment in building an e-government, the bureaucratic procedures still limits the flexibility and effectiveness of e-government. In the case of Hong Kong, we face similar problem. For this reason, I will press the government to make more use of ICT (particularly Internet technologies) to improve governance of the society, e.g. to simplify the process of public services from the current stage of only providing information to that of providing interactive services.

Press the government to increase the transparency of governance through web 2.0 technology and to improve livelihood of the people

Before our e-government is fully developed, Internet has already entered the web 2.0 era. Some European and American government websites have embraced web 2.0 concepts, which enable public participation in monitoring and improving government operations. These include blogs and discussion boards set up by government departments and non-government organizations. In North America, bicycle lanes are often occupied by illegally parking cars. The setup of the "My Bike Lane" website allows cyclists to display pictures and registration permits of the illegal parking cars. The discussion board also provides a forum for the people to have round-the-clock surveillance on offenders. In this way, the work of the enforcement agencies is greatly reduced. Therefore, I will press the government to learn from other governments, thereby improving the transparency of governance through web 2.0 technology and improving the livelihood of the people, by the setting up of a more open and more participative e-government and e-community.

I will also mobilize the IT industry to participate in the operation of the government, help to develop information systems that can enhance the efficiency of the government, e.g. to set up interactive government database, so that government staff can more effectively gather information, consult case history and make use of corporate wisdom to solve problems.



Press the government to increase the exchange of private and public information

I will press the government to increase the exchange of public and private information, so that more government information can be shared by private enterprises and the public, e.g. to release more mapping data to Geographic Information System (GIS) operators, so that more value-added services can be made available. As long as personal data are adequately protected, the government should speed up the sharing of private clinic patients records to public hospitals.

10. IT into Society

Tackle the “Digital Divide” problem through “Task Force on Digital Inclusion”

There are many in our society who, due to various reasons like financially unaffordable, lack of chances for education, etc, could not make use of IT technology, and this has led to the social problem of “digital divide”. Building a digital integrated knowledge society would allow all societal sectors to benefit from the rapid IT development, and enjoy equal chances in making best use of IT to fully develop and express themselves. This is also the imperative issue of the era. The government has set up “Task Force on Digital Inclusion” (the Task Force)” in July 2008 to handle the problems. As a member of the Task Force, I will try my best to tackle the problem of “digital divide”, with measures like implementing the “one child one computer” programme, monitoring the set up of digital societies, and helping the disadvantaged groups in connecting to Internet, etc.

Push for Green IT, promote the use of IT in various societal sectors to minimize the CO2 emission

Global warming is now a highly concerned topic worldwide. According to a recent study, the emission of CO2 by digital centers constitutes roughly 2% of the total global output. Nevertheless, IT could effectively lower the emission of CO2 from other channels. For instance, Internet connectivity lowers the need for face-to-face meeting, and thus the demand for traveling. Therefore, I will strive to push for the Green IT concept, that is, to promote the best use of IT in various societal sectors so that CO2 emission through other channels could be lowered. At the same time, I will push for a greener data center concept. Intelligent buildings that could effectively save energy for IT systems should be promoted and encouraged. Telephone or video conferences should be encouraged whereas photocopy should be discouraged. More intelligent systems should be made use of in the workflow of various industries. According to the forecast of an overseas report, IT technology if successfully used for the above-mentioned measures, could cut the global CO2 emission by 7.8% by 2020. I will urge the government to take the lead in pushing forward the Green IT concept, and to encourage the IT industry to



develop more ICT products with green concepts. Recycling of IT products should also be promoted.

Urge the government to invest more resources to handle the problems of inappropriate use of Internet by youngsters

IT has brought vast benefits to this generation. Yet, inappropriate or incorrect use of it by youngsters could also lead to adverse effects, like breaching of copyrights, contact of obscene and violent information, and addicted to web surfing, etc. I have long been pushing for programmes which could draw the due attention of society to these problems, including programmes like “Code of Netizen”, “Lives without Digital Games”, etc. I will continue urging the government to invest more resources and set up specialized committees to handle social problems arising from the misuse or inappropriate use of Internet by youngsters. Also, education and promulgation should be strengthened, so that through the joint efforts of teachers and parents, youngsters could be taught of a correct view on using internet, like respect and protect the privacy and copyrights, and the proper value of making friends on Internet, etc., so that our future societal pillars would not be corrupted because of wrongful use of Internet.