



Policy Address Proposal 2004 to the Chief Executive (Abstract)

Information technology (IT)

- To carry out pilot projects to encourage wider adoption of wireless, mobile and ubiquitous technology applications in the public sector.
- To formulate more sector-specific e-Commerce programmes in different sectors to help SMEs enhance their competitiveness through the use of IT.
- To establish the Software Centre of Excellence to enhance the competitiveness of the local software industry.
- To develop the second phase of action plan for the Digital Content Industry to accelerate production, distribution and marketing of Digital Content applications, both in domestic and overseas markets.
- To step up efforts to promote Hong Kong's high-valued industries in overseas markets so as to attract international venture capitalists to invest in Hong Kong's IT market.
- To offer 200% tax concession to high-tech based spin-off companies to stimulate R&D activities in Hong Kong.
- To adopt technological assessment in important public projects; and request all government bureaux/departments to report annually on the progress, priorities and action plans for online services delivery, to ensure the wider adoption of IT applications in the public sector.
- To urge the Building and Lands Department to open up its geographic data to encourage the deployment of value-added applications in private sector; The Government also needs to work with transport operators and the IT industry to deploy more value-added information services in public transport settings in a bid to foster the take-up of Transport Information System in Hong Kong.
- To deploy adequate measures to raise SMEs' awareness of information securities on new technologies.
- To explore options that are best suited to stopping the spread of Spam in Hong Kong, and introduce legislation to tackle new security challenges, e.g. phishing, hacking on wireless technologies and privacy issues of RFID.
- To collaborate with schools, universities, and IT business to launch an IT Career Campaign to encourage and prepare more young people to take up technical education and career.
- To set up an Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Skills Monitoring Group under the Industry Training Advisory Committees of the EMB to monitor the employment situation of the industry, and analyse skills required by ICT-related industries so as to avoid skills mismatch in the industry.
- To collaborate with the industry to work out the IT industry's positioning in China's ICT development, and establish a regular communications channel with the Ministry of Information Industry (MII) to engage local industries to contribute towards national ICT development.
- To lobby the Central Government to eliminate restrictions on taxation, customs, professional accreditation and other trade barriers so that local IT companies can compete fairly with their Mainland counterparts in the Mainland market.
- To promote the concept of a Telecoms Special Zone, fight for the landing right of local Fixed Telecommunications Network Services operators in Shenzhen and that the "Hong Kong-Made Software" be granted zero import tariff, as well as allow digital entertainment companies to set up business units in the Mainland with the Hong Kong party holding majority shareholding in CEPA 2.