

MESSAGE

In his 1997 Policy Address, the Chief Executive outlined his vision to make Hong Kong a leader in the information world of tomorrow. In his 1998 Policy Address, he further emphasised the importance of using information technology (IT) to help Hong Kong retain our competitive edge and drive our overall economic expansion. To realise the Chief Executive's IT vision, we announced the "Digital 21" IT Strategy in November 1998. This is a comprehensive strategy to enhance and promote Hong Kong's information infrastructure and services so as to make Hong Kong a leading digital city in the globally connected world of the 21st century.

Our Policy Objective on IT is fully supported by the "Digital 21" IT Strategy which is built upon four enabling factors: developing a high capacity communications infrastructure, establishing an open and common interface for the conduct of secure electronic transactions, equipping our people with the know-how to use IT widely in our everyday life, and nurturing a culture which stimulates creativity and welcomes advances in the use of IT.

In the past year, we have put in place and made significant progress in launching various initiatives in pursuit of these enabling factors. In the coming year, we can look forward to the launching of the first phase of the Electronic Service Delivery scheme to deliver Government services over the Internet, the setting up of a public certification authority by the Hongkong Post to provide a secure environment for the conduct of electronic transactions and the establishment of a clear legal framework for electronic commerce. We shall focus our efforts on taking forward these and other new initiatives in order to bring about improved services to the community, to help nurture our IT industry, to strengthen our information infrastructure, to improve the efficiency and productivity of our business community and to enhance Hong Kong's overall competitiveness in the Information Age.

As announced by the Financial Secretary in the Budget Speech in March this year, we are proceeding with the development of a Cyberport at Telegraph Bay. This is an important information infrastructure project to support our "Digital 21" IT Strategy. It aims to create a strategic cluster of leading IT and information services (IS) companies and a critical mass of professional talents. The Cyberport will be completed in three phases, from end-2001/early 2002 to end-2003, and will be able to accommodate over 130 companies of different sizes. This is a flagship project to put Hong Kong firmly on the IT world map.



(K C Kwong)

Secretary for Information Technology
and Broadcasting

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Our Policy Objective is to enhance and promote Hong Kong's information infrastructure and services so as to make Hong Kong a leading digital city in the globally connected world of the 21st century.

Our targets this year in pursuing this Policy Objective are –

- to develop an information infrastructure with an open and common interface for secure electronic transactions between Government, businesses and individuals
- to raise computer literacy in the community to support the development of a knowledge-based economy
- to promote extensive use of IT within Government to improve efficiency and quality in the provision of public services
- to achieve a high IT take-up rate among businesses and households
- to foster a cultural environment that stimulates creativity and welcomes advances in the use of IT
- to participate actively in international and bilateral fora on IT

Progress Made

In the past year, we made significant progress in implementing the various plans under the “Digital 21” IT Strategy and in pursuing our Policy Objective. Public awareness about IT has substantially increased and general computer literacy and IT take-up in both businesses and households have also increased. Both businesses and the community are viewing more positively the prospect of Hong Kong excelling in IT. We have continued the build-up of our information infrastructure. We also continued to make use of IT within the Government to improve the quality and efficiency of our services to the public.

KEY RESULT AREAS (KRAs)

To ensure that this Policy Objective can be achieved, we must deliver results in a number of key areas, that is, we must –

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3	Promote and facilitate the use of new and emerging information technologies within the community	Page 12

The Government is committed to keeping Hong Kong in the forefront of IT development. To this end, we have formulated the “Digital 21” IT Strategy in November 1998. In this strategy, we have set out our vision, and the initiatives and targets on how Government, business, industry and academia can work together to make Hong Kong a leading digital city in a globally connected world.

A major enabling factor of the “Digital 21” IT Strategy is the establishment of an information infrastructure with an open and common interface through which the Government, business and the general public can interact easily and securely. Accordingly, we will take the lead in creating demand for services that make effective use of the shared infrastructure through the introduction of on-line delivery of Government services, or Electronic Service Delivery (ESD). With ESD, the public will be able to transact business with Government through different access devices, and Government departments will be able to improve the quality and efficiency of the delivery of their services to the community.

The private sector will be able to make use of the same open and common information infrastructure for conducting electronic transactions at a later stage. This infrastructure can also serve as the gateway for electronic transactions with the Mainland of China. To encourage the general public and, in particular, the business community to participate in electronic commerce, we will address concerns about the certainty and security of on-line transactions by introducing an appropriate and clear legal framework and by building a local public key infrastructure through the establishment of certification authorities. We are also building a secure central Internet gateway for use by Government departments and shall strengthen the use of Internet technology to improve communication within the Government and for providing better services to the public.

The Government will promote the widest possible use of this information infrastructure by introducing common standards which apply to both the public and private sectors. In particular, we will establish a common interface based on international standards for the use of Chinese in electronic communication and data exchange between Government departments and the community.

With our excellent telecommunications network and the close relationship with the Mainland, Hong Kong has the potential to develop into a regional Internet hub. We shall take steps to create an environment conducive to this development, with a view to promoting information flow within the region through Hong Kong. This will in turn enhance Hong Kong’s role as a main player in electronic commerce in Asia.

To take advantage of the latest developments in IT, we will continue to explore internationally with interested partners the possibility of entering into co-operation arrangements with us. We will also take an active part in discussions on electronic commerce in international fora to assist in the development of international consensus on the treatment of relevant cross-border issues.

We are embarking on the development of a Cyberport at Telegraph Bay. The Cyberport will be our IT infrastructure flagship which will not only attract leading IT/IS companies and overseas talents to Hong Kong but will also accommodate smaller local companies. In the Cyberport, we will build up a professional community and this will create an environment conducive to the exchange of creative ideas among like-minded people. This important information infrastructure project is proceeding quickly, so as to ensure that Hong Kong stays ahead in the IT race.

Progress Made

In the past year, we made significant progress in preparing for the implementation of the ESD scheme. Tenders for the supply of the ESD system were invited and we are now evaluating the bids with a view to awarding the contract in around October 1999. The first phase of the scheme will be launched in the latter half of 2000, covering a wide range of services of ten Government departments and public agencies. We have also pushed ahead with the establishment of a local public key infrastructure for the conduct of secure electronic transactions. The Hongkong Post (a Government trading fund) has awarded the contract for the setting up of its public certification services and aims to provide the services to businesses and individuals by the end of the year. We have also introduced the Electronic Transactions Bill into the Legislative Council for the establishment of a clear legal framework for electronic transactions.

On the use of Chinese in electronic communication, we have been working closely with the other economies which use ideographic characters under the aegis of the International Organisation for Standardisation (ISO) on the development of the ISO 10646 standard for ideographic character coding. In May this year, we submitted to the ISO a set of Hong Kong-unique Chinese characters for inclusion in the ISO 10646. We are now finalising the implementation strategy plan for establishing the common interface to tie in with the progressive adoption of the standard by the ISO.

Under the aegis of the Hong Kong/Guangdong Co-operation Joint Conference, the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government and the Government of the Guangdong Province are jointly setting up a dedicated electronic link to facilitate communication and information exchange between officials of the two Governments.

As regards international co-operation, we signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on IT co-operation with the United Kingdom in June 1999. This is the third MOU of its kind, after similar ones we signed with Canada and with Australia in 1998. We have been working closely under the auspices of the three MOUs to encourage and support partnership, investment co-operation, commercial ventures, research and development in the areas of IT and advanced communications technology. We shall continue to explore the potential for bilateral arrangements on IT co-operation with other interested partners.

Our plan to develop the Cyberport has enhanced Hong Kong's image as an international IT/IS centre, and has raised local community interest in IT/IS development. We have received

many enquiries from IT/IS companies in Hong Kong and from all over the world. 12 international companies have registered interests to become anchor tenants, and about 50 other companies have expressed interests to be tenants. Infrastructural works commenced at the site at Telegraph Bay in September 1999, and are scheduled for completion by end-2001/early 2002, to coincide with that of Phase I of the Cyberport superstructure. We shall closely monitor the design and construction of the Cyberport and will also put in place the institutional arrangements for the selection of tenants and for the future management of the Cyberport.

To achieve results in this area, various initiatives have been undertaken in the past years. Details are set out below –

Initiative *	Target #	Present Position +
<p>To co-ordinate and implement a phased programme for the electronic delivery of services through an information infrastructure with an open, common interface in the public sector, and subsequently extending it to cover the private sector</p> <p><i>(Information Technology and Broadcasting Bureau (ITBB))</i></p>	<p>To invite tenders from potential service operators in 1998-1999, with a view to introducing the first phase of Electronic Service Delivery (ESD) in 2000</p> <p><i>(1998)</i></p>	<p>We obtained funding approval for the implementation of the first phase of the ESD scheme from the Legislative Council Finance Committee in December 1998. We invited tenders for the supply of the ESD system in January 1999. The tender closed in April 1999. Six bids were received. We are now evaluating the bids with a view to awarding the ESD contract around October 1999. We plan to implement the first phase of the ESD scheme, which covers a wide range of services of ten Government departments and public agencies, in the latter half of 2000.</p> <p><i>(Action in Progress: On Schedule)</i></p>

* the bracketed information denotes the agency with lead responsibility for the initiative

the bracketed information denotes the year in which the target was set

+ the bracketed information denotes the status of the target

Initiative	Target	Present Position
<p>To build a secure central gateway for communication between Government departments and the community and the business sector for the purpose of information dissemination and service delivery through the Internet</p> <p><i>(Information Technology Services Department (ITSD))</i></p>	<p>To build the secure central gateway in 2000</p> <p><i>(1998)</i></p>	<p>We obtained funding approval for the implementation of the project from the Legislative Council Finance Committee in April 1999. The implementation work is now in progress and we plan to complete the building of the secure central Internet gateway by early 2000.</p> <p><i>(Action in Progress: On Schedule)</i></p>
<p>To facilitate the development of a public key infrastructure and the establishment of certification authorities to ensure security in the delivery of electronic services and in carrying out electronic transactions</p> <p><i>(ITBB)</i></p>	<p>To set up a public certification authority by 1999</p> <p><i>(1998)</i></p>	<p>The Hongkong Post has awarded the contract for the setting up of a public certification authority by end-1999.</p> <p><i>(Action in Progress: On Schedule)</i></p>
<p>To introduce legislation to facilitate the development of electronic commerce</p> <p><i>(ITBB)</i></p>	<p>To introduce legislation in 1999 to provide the necessary legal framework for electronic commerce</p> <p><i>(1998)</i></p>	<p>We introduced the Electronic Transactions Bill into the Legislative Council on 14 July 1999. The Bill seeks to establish the necessary legal framework for the conduct of electronic transactions.</p> <p><i>(Action in Progress: On Schedule)</i></p>

Initiative	Target	Present Position
<p>To establish a common interface for using Chinese in electronic communication and data exchange between Government and the community (ITSD)</p>	<p>To establish the common interface in 2000 (1998)</p>	<p>We are working closely with other economies under the aegis of the International Organisation for Standardisation (ISO) on the development of the ISO 10646 standard for ideographic character coding. The ISO 10646 standard will form the basis for the common interface. We are finalising the implementation plan for establishing the interface to tie in with the progressive adoption of the standard by the ISO. (Action in Progress: On Schedule)</p>
<p>To set up an electronic link between the Governments of the HKSAR and the Guangdong Province (ITBB)</p>	<p>To set up the inter-government electronic link by 1999 (1998)</p>	<p>The physical electronic link has been set up and put under trial. We aim to launch the link within 1999. (Action in Progress: On Schedule)</p>
<p>To continue to conclude bilateral arrangements on IT co-operation with countries which are advanced in IT development (ITBB)</p>	<p>To actively explore the possibility of concluding bilateral arrangements on IT co-operation with interested partners in 1999-2000 (1998)</p>	<p>We signed an MOU on IT co-operation with the United Kingdom in June 1999. We will continue to explore the potential for bilateral arrangements on IT co-operation with other interested partners. (Action in Progress: On Schedule)</p>
<p>To extend the Government Office Automation (GOA) Programme to cover the whole of Government (ITBB)</p>	<p>To extend the GOA Programme to cover the whole of Government by 2000 (1997)</p>	<p>The implementation of the GOA Programme is on schedule and we aim to cover all Government bureaux and departments by end-2000. (Action in Progress: On Schedule)</p>

Looking Forward

In the next 12 months, we will assess our performance in respect of this KRA against the following indicators –

Indicator	1999 Target
The development through ESD of an information infrastructure with an open and common interface for secure data exchange and transactions between Government, businesses and the community in the latter half of 2000	To launch Phase I of ESD in the latter half of 2000
The development and wide adoption of industry standards so as to ensure that IT systems are compatible and can communicate with each other	To implement progressively the common Chinese language interface from 2000
Active participation in multilateral and bilateral fora on IT	To develop and implement work programmes under the MOUs signed with Canada, Australia and the United Kingdom

We will undertake the following initiatives to deliver results in this area –

Initiative	1999 Target
To develop and establish cross recognition between the HKSAR and other economies in respect of the operation of certification authorities (ITBB)	To actively explore with other Governments, either on a bilateral or multilateral basis, arrangements for cross recognition of certification authorities in 2000-2001
To oversee and co-ordinate the development of the Cyberport at Telegraph Bay (ITBB)	To ensure the timely completion of the Cyberport by phases from late 2001/early 2002 to end-2003, and to put in place the institutional arrangements for the selection of tenants and for the future management of the Cyberport

As a place where the East meets the West, Hong Kong is well-placed to take an active role in the development of Chinese language standards and applications. To this end, we shall encourage co-operation between the local IT industry and institutions in the Mainland of China and other Chinese speaking communities in the Asia-Pacific region and internationally. We shall also encourage the development and hosting of innovative and attractive Internet sites locally, especially those that contribute to developing Hong Kong as a gateway for electronic commerce with the Mainland.

We shall facilitate the commercialisation of the results of research on leading edge technology through closer collaboration between academia and the local IT industry. We shall continue to contribute towards the tripartite efforts of Government, academia and industry in cultivating jointly an IT entrepreneurial spirit in Hong Kong. We shall, in liaison with the Industry Department, identify requirements for facilities for small and medium-sized enterprises and individual entrepreneurs to start up IT businesses.

To foster the development of the IT industry locally, we need to have an adequate supply of IT professionals. The Education and Manpower Bureau (EMB) has commissioned a consultancy study on the manpower and training needs of the IT sector. The findings of the study will assist the Government in the development of a co-ordinated strategy for IT manpower planning, training and development. We shall work closely with the EMB in taking this important task forward.

We have adopted a vigorous outsourcing strategy for the provision of IT services within the Government with a view to creating a market of sufficient size to encourage the further development of the local IT industry. We have also enhanced our communications with the local IT industry through various fora to help the industry to better understand our outsourcing strategies and plans.

For the local IT industry to stay ahead and competitive, we must know what technological advances are being made elsewhere so that we can position ourselves in the global market strategically. We shall continue to develop and maintain contacts with other economies which are advanced in IT development to facilitate exchanges of information and experience. We shall also gather useful benchmarking statistics on the IT sector, including its contribution to Hong Kong's economy.

Progress Made

We have been facilitating the commercialisation of research results on leading edge technology through fostering a closer collaboration between academia and the local IT industry. We shall continue to work closely with the Industry Department in identifying IT projects worthy of Government’s support under the newly established Innovation and Technology Fund.

We have been collaborating with the EMB in the conduct of its consultancy study on the manpower and training needs of the IT sector. We shall continue to work closely with the EMB in developing a co-ordinated strategy on the way forward based on the recommendations of this study.

We have adopted outsourcing as the preferred solution for all new Government IT projects since April this year. We have also identified the scope for outsourcing IT application maintenance activities in various departments. We shall continue to vigorously pursue the outsourcing strategy.

To achieve results in this area, the following initiative has been undertaken in the past year –

Initiative	Target	Present Position
To expand outsourcing by the Information Technology Services Department (ITSD) in order to foster the growth of the local IT industry <i>(ITSD)</i>	In 1999-2000 to start outsourcing the application maintenance activities currently performed in-house by ITSD <i>(1998)</i>	The ITSD has identified the scope of application maintenance activities which can be outsourced. It will progressively implement outsourcing in consultation with user departments. As for new IT projects, it will outsource two-thirds by 2001. <i>(Action in Progress: On Schedule)</i>

Looking Forward

In the next 12 months, we will assess our performance in respect of this KRA against the following indicators –

Indicator	1999 Target
<p>The contribution of information technology and information services to Hong Kong's economy –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● number of businesses in the information technology and information services field ● contribution of information technology and information services to Hong Kong's gross domestic product (GDP) ● to outsource two-thirds of all new Government IT projects by 2001 ● value of Government IT projects outsourced in 2000 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● To collect benchmarking statistics on the IT sector including its contribution to Hong Kong's economy for future comparison ● To map out outsourcing plans and take forward outsourcing activities ● To outsource up to \$460 million in value of Government's IT work in 1999-2000
<p>The growth of skilled IT professionals available to Hong Kong –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● number of employees in the information technology and information services field ● number of IT graduates from University Grants Committee-funded institutions and Vocational Training Council 	<p>To collect benchmarking statistics on IT manpower supply and demand for future comparison</p>
<p>Research and development (R&D) expenditure in information technology and information services as a percentage of Hong Kong's GDP</p>	<p>To collect benchmarking statistics on R&D expenditure on IT for future comparison</p>
<p>Public funding deployed to support the IT industry</p>	<p>To continue to provide funding support to the IT industry through the newly established Innovation and Technology Fund and other funding schemes</p>

3

Promote and facilitate the use of new and emerging information technologies within the community

To deliver the social and economic benefits of IT developments, the community will need to be aware of the opportunities and benefits offered by new digital technologies, especially the opportunities for exploiting the Internet for commercial use and accessing information for education and social enhancement.

The Government will lead by example and will use the Electronic Service Delivery (ESD) project as the vehicle for promoting the development of its own skills and capabilities. The Government aims to achieve greater efficiency and productivity in the delivery of public services by integrating services across boundaries between Government departments in order to deliver a seamless service.

We shall continue to promote awareness and understanding of IT and its applications through an active promotion and skills development programme. We will work in close partnership with the local IT industry, businesses, academia and other professional bodies to encourage the cross-fertilisation of ideas and to promote the use of new and emerging technologies within the community. We shall continue to promote the wider use of IT in the community through organising seminars and exhibitions in co-operation with various industrial support organisations, implement pilot projects to demonstrate the usefulness and effectiveness of IT and electronic commerce ahead of the launching of the ESD scheme, and enhance the accessibility of computer facilities by members of the public through providing and sponsoring computer facilities, services and activities which have a wide reach to the community.

To promote the wider use of IT in Hong Kong, we shall take the lead in creating demand for services that make effective use of our information infrastructure across a range of private sector organisations and the public sector. This will be achieved by sharing knowledge and expertise and promulgating the benefits of IT in a range of business sectors. We will also continue with our efforts in tackling the Year 2000 problem for computer and embedded systems to guard against disruptions in essential services and to ensure a smooth and orderly transition to the Year 2000 for the community at large.

The work on IT in education being pursued by the Education and Manpower Bureau (EMB) is vital in preparing our next generation for the Information Age. We shall continue to assist the EMB in this endeavour.

Progress Made

We have collaborated with the EMB on its work on IT in education.

We have also developed a plan to collect benchmarking statistics related to Internet use and IT penetration in the community and across businesses.

In respect of publicity efforts to promote awareness, we took part in various exhibitions locally to encourage the wider use of IT in the community and in exhibitions overseas to publicise our IT initiatives, thereby strengthening our position in the IT world. We have also launched a bi-monthly seminar series together with industrial support bodies on electronic commerce, targeting small and medium-sized enterprises in a specific business sector in each seminar. Over 1 500 people attended the first two seminars targeting the clothing and textiles sector and the general consumer goods sector respectively. We have also co-operated with various industrial support bodies to produce an information kit on electronic commerce for distribution to the business community.

As regards the use of the Internet and IT, we have launched the Interactive Government Services Directory web site which provided interactive public services and information to the community over the Internet. It has become one of the most popular Government web sites visited by members of the public. The average daily access count of the web site exceeded 100 000 web pages. We have also launched the Universal Free Electronic Mail Service scheme whereby 16 Internet Service Providers and other IT-related companies sponsored free electronic mail service for use by members of the public in order to promote electronic communication in all walks of life in the community. There are sufficient free electronic mail accounts sponsored under the scheme for use by each and every business and individual in Hong Kong.

To widen public access to IT services provided through the Internet, we have installed computer facilities with Internet connection in District Offices and community halls/centres for use by those who do not have their own facilities. Members of the public can also make use of these facilities for the issue and receipt of their own electronic mail. These computers, together with those already installed in public libraries, constitute an extensive network of public computer facilities which are readily available for use by the community.

We have also made very good progress in our work to tackle the Year 2000 problem. Over 99% of all mission-critical systems within the Government had been rectified as of 30 June 1999. The Year 2000 compliance work in non-Government organisations providing essential services is closely monitored by the Government through the relevant policy bureaux and departments and they have also made very good progress. Hong Kong has been ranked by the Global 2000 Co-ordinating Group as one of the four best prepared places amongst 48 economies in the world in terms of overall Y2K readiness. We shall continue with our work in the next few months, including the drawing up and testing of a territory-wide contingency plan, to ensure that Hong Kong will have a smooth and orderly transition to the new millennium.

To achieve results in this area, various initiatives have been undertaken in the past years. Details are set out below –

Initiative	Target	Present Position
<p>To transform the delivery of public services by using the Electronic Service Delivery (ESD) infrastructure (The Government will spend \$173 million on launching the on-line Government ESD scheme.)</p> <p><i>(Information Technology and Broadcasting Bureau (ITBB))</i></p>	<p>To implement the first tranche of public services through ESD by 2000</p> <p><i>(1998)</i></p>	<p>We will implement the first phase of the ESD scheme, covering a wide range of services of ten Government departments and public agencies, in the latter half of 2000.</p> <p><i>(Action in Progress: On Schedule)</i></p>
<p>To ensure the early rectification of the Year 2000 problem within Government and in organisations which are funded or regulated by Government and which provide public services, and promote awareness of the Year 2000 problem on a community-wide basis</p> <p><i>(ITBB)</i></p>	<p>To achieve Year 2000 compliance for mission-critical systems in the public sector by June 1999</p> <p><i>(1998)</i></p>	<p>99.7% of the 6 155 mission-critical systems within Government have met the target completion date of 30 June 1999. For the remaining 0.3% (16 systems) which had not yet achieved compliance by the target date, their rectification work is scheduled to be completed before the end of the year. Contingency plans in respect of these non-compliant systems are already in place to ensure that services to the public will not be disrupted. As at 31 August 1999, all but three mission-critical systems within Government had achieved compliance.</p> <p><i>(Action in Progress: Under Review)</i></p>

Initiative	Target	Present Position
<p>To identify projects which help to promote the use of information technology within the community (ITBB)</p>	<p>To implement pilot projects in 1999-2000 (1998)</p>	<p>We have launched a series of projects to promote the use of information technology within the community. These include the launching of the Interactive Government Services Directory web site which provides public information and services to the community over the Internet in an interactive manner, the implementation of a Universal Free Electronic Mail Service scheme, under which Internet Service Providers and information technology-related companies provide free electronic mail services to members of the public to encourage electronic communication in all walks of life, and the installation of computer facilities with Internet connection in District Offices and community halls/centres for public use.</p> <p><i>(Action in Progress: On Schedule)</i></p>

Initiative	Target	Present Position
To launch programmes to encourage the private sector, especially small and medium-sized enterprises, to engage in electronic commerce <i>(ITBB)</i>	To work with chambers of commerce and other representative organisations to encourage the participation of consumers, and in particular small and medium-sized enterprises, in electronic commerce <i>(1998)</i>	We have – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● launched a bi-monthly seminar series together with the Hong Kong Trade Development Council and the Hong Kong Information Technology Federation on electronic commerce, targeting small and medium-sized enterprises in specific business sectors; ● prepared an information kit on electronic commerce with various industrial support bodies for distribution to the business community; ● worked closely with industrial support bodies to provide practical electronic commerce solutions to small and medium-sized companies at affordable cost; ● taken part in seminars organised by chambers of commerce to encourage their members to adopt electronic commerce in business operations. <i>(Action in Progress: On Schedule)</i>

Looking Forward

In the next 12 months, we will assess our performance in respect of this KRA against the following indicators –

Indicator	1999 Target
The computer literacy of the school population and graduates of tertiary institutions	To achieve a higher computer literacy among students, through in particular the five-year strategy on IT for Learning in a New Era

Indicator	1999 Target
<p>The effectiveness of publicity efforts in promoting awareness and understanding of IT and its applications –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● number of IT seminars organised by the Government or co-organised with trade/industry support bodies in the year 2000 and the number of participants who have taken part in these seminars ● number of companies which have received electronic commerce information kits in 2000 ● number of community-involvement activities to promote the wider use of IT in 2000 ● number of broadcasts of IT-related Announcements of Public Interest on television and radio in 2000 	<p>To achieve a heightened public awareness and understanding of IT in 1999-2000 as measured by each of the indicators shown</p>
<p>Internet use and IT penetration in the community and by businesses –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● household personal computers (PC) penetration rate ● percentage of household PCs connected to the Internet ● number of Internet accounts (excluding leased lines) ● number of Internet users ● number of web sites registered in Hong Kong ● volume of Internet traffic ● capacity of international Internet bandwidth ● capacity of cross-border Internet bandwidth between Hong Kong and the Mainland 	<p>To achieve a higher IT penetration rate in 1999-2000 as measured by the indicators shown</p>

We will undertake the following initiative to deliver results in this area –

Initiative	1999 Target
To enable small and medium-sized enterprises to adopt electronic commerce at affordable cost <i>(ITBB)</i>	To liaise with industrial support bodies and encourage them to provide practical electronic commerce solutions at affordable cost to small and medium-sized enterprises