

## Innovation and Technology Association (ITA)'s view on Digital Divide in H.K.

The Internet is becoming an essential tool in our information society. More people are going online to conduct such day-to-day activities as business transactions, personal correspondence, research and information gathering, and shopping. Each year, being digitally connected becomes ever more critical to economic, educational, and social advancement. People who lack access to those tools are at a growing disadvantage – “Digital Divide”.

One of the missions of ITA is to ensure that all people in Hong Kong will benefit from the New Economy by working to bridge the global digital divide, using innovation and technology to promote growth and create new jobs, and applying technology to business and government to improve efficiency and to enhance the quality of life.

ITA is committed to conducting industrial research and providing useful, relevant information about the digital divide, and how to address it, to interested individuals and organizations in Hong Kong. Our research results and information are directed primarily to educators, community organizers, and businesspeople, but also has information that will be of interest to government officials, policymakers, volunteers, professional organizations, the press, researchers, parents, and students. ITA attempts to consolidate the increasing wealth of information being generated about the digital divide, and to link to other resources that can help individuals and organizations concerned with the issue.

The ITA is dedicated to:

- providing global information about the digital divide, with a special emphasis on practical programs and projects that can help bridge the divide;
- establishing links to resource people and organizations that can help professionals engaged in addressing the challenge of the digital divide;
- providing training and awareness programs that can help bridge the digital divide; and
- generating ideas on how to obtain grants or other funding for a project to address the digital divide.

ITA believes that all people should have access to high technology, and that equal access benefits individuals, weak communities, and our nation as a whole.