
In today's (9 July 2001) Legislative Council Panel on Information Technology and Broadcasting meeting, the Secretary for Information Technology and Broadcasting, Mrs. Carrie Yau, said that Government had expended around \$2.2 billion to implement measures to address the issue of digital divide. Detailed breakdown is as follows-

	Dollar
\$200 million from Quality Education Fund to provide funds to secondary schools to purchase notebook computers with free Internet access for loan to needy students	200 million
\$900 million from Quality Education Fund to provide funds for schools to install intranets, multi-media classrooms and to subsidize Pegasus Social Service Christian Organization to promote the use of information technology through mobile buses	900 million
Over \$700 million for Vocational Training Council to organize various training courses on information technology	716.5 million
Over \$120 million for Employees Retraining Board to organize various training courses on information technology	128.4 million
Around \$7.4 million for launching the IT Hong Kong Campaign and organizing the IT Awareness Programmes	7.4 million ¹
The Radio Television Hong Kong, in collaboration with the Hong Kong Computer Society, produced and broadcast 2 series of TV episodes entitled "IT Files"	9 million

¹ This include \$0.8 million specifically for organizing IT Awareness Programmes for the elderly

Around \$13.7 million for installation of community Cyberpoints	13.7 million ²
Around \$4.2 million for setting up the Super Cyber Centre	4.2 million
Around \$4 million for establishing the Central Fund for Personal Computers to assist people with disabilities to set up PC workstation to help them find and sustain an income-generating job	4 million
Around \$4.5 million for enhancing the web accessibility of Government web sites	4.5 million
Around \$200 million for Social Welfare Department to install computers, provide training, etc. to provide services to the disadvantaged	195.7 million
Total:	2,183.4 million

The above figures do not include the resources from the private sector and other voluntary agencies in participating in community services and assisting the Government to tackle digital divide. Moreover, we will invest a total of \$5.4 billion within 5 years in pursuing the 5-year strategy on “Information Technology for Learning in the New Era”, in which \$4.85 billion has been spent in the past 3 years.

² This does not include the Cyberpoints in non-Government organizations and public libraries