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**HKPC's Views on the Proposed HKSAR Identity Card**

1. Hong Kong is a highly competitive economy where continuous economic and technological advancement are the cornerstones for enhancing Hong Kong's competitiveness.
2. The application of IT will be pervasive and will increasingly impact on the daily life of the public. The smart card technology is not new to Hong Kong. The success of the Octopus card is a good example of a new technology being readily accepted by Hong Kong citizens. Public acceptance of the new ID card will to a large degree hinge on the convenience it brings to our daily life.
3. HKPC supports a multifunction ID card for productivity and efficiency improvement. This card will facilitate the applications of B-C and G-C e-commerce and m-commerce. The Government should consider incorporating e-Cert as a standard feature of the new ID card and provide it free of charge. This would encourage the effective use of e-Cert and promote the development of the local IT industry.
4. The new ID card should also be synergistic to the Government's ESD initiative.
5. HKPC supports the Government's move to address the two important issues of security and piracy. It is recommended to use the information stored in the new card, such as biometric data, for the authentication of the card owner. In this regard, the new electronic ID card will serve as a key chain wallet. Each key will be used to invoke a new application. The cardholders should be given the option to put in new "keys" in their "wallet".
6. HKPC recommends the government to educate the general public on the advantages of the new ID card. In planning the education and promotion programmes, care should be taken to avoid sending out incorrect messages, as in the case of Y2K.
7. All in all, HKPC supports the government's proposal on the multifunction smart ID card. The card will help to promote the image of Hong Kong as the IT hub of the region.