

Hong Kong Linux Industry Association

Room 875-875A 8/F, HK Int'l Trade and Exhibition Centre, 1 Trademart Drive, Kowloon Bay, Hong Kong.

9 December, 2005

Chairman & Members
Legislative Council Panel on
Information Technology and Broadcasting

Dear Mr. Chairman,

Linux Adoption in Government of Hong Kong SAR

I am writing on behalf of Hong Kong Linux Industry Association and the Open Source community regarding the adoption of Linux within Bureaux and departments in Hong Kong SAR, China.

Linux and Open Source was introduced in 1991. Over 15 years of development, it becomes a stable, reliable and secure operating system in information technology. Many world leading and developing countries including Germany, UK, Finland, China and Korea announced preferential adoption policy for Linux and Open Source.

In your Capital Works Reserve Fund Head 710, please kindly provide the status and statistics in successful contracts (in terms of quantity, amount and percentage) awarded on Linux and Open Source platform in the past 3 years.

As part of China's key city, the government of HKSAR is spending too little and too late to nurture and support Linux and Open Source as a growing industry. In contrast, government in China, especially in the province of Guangdong, stipulate Linux as the key requirement in sizeable portion of IT projects. Hong Kong is closely related to Guangdong geographically and economically. If we are not heading towards the same direction at comparable if not faster pace, the gap will be too far for us to catch up even if we decided later. It will eventually hamper trade and export economy.

We understood that OGCIO is encouraging users to adopt Open Source and Linux in a voluntary basis. It was comparatively too little. Please also share with the industry what is the government's strategy and plan for the next 5 years to increase the adoption both in quantity, amount and percentage.

Linux and Open Source is a new hope for reviving the IT industry in Hong Kong. It will generate employment as well as export economy. This young industry requires the government to look seriously and support rather than driven by free market. We strongly recommend the government to take the leading role in adoption of Linux and Open Source thus trigger commercial popularity.

Should you have any question, please do not hesitate to drop me a line. I can be reached by telephone at 2787 0778 or email alankan@clevermotion.com. I appreciate your attention in this matter.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alan Kan". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Alan Kan

Acting Chairman