



May 28, 2007

Mr. Donald Tsang
Chief Executive
Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government
Government House, Hong Kong

Dear Mr. Tsang,

On behalf of the Hong Kong Information Technology Federation, we would like to express our opposition to the removal of "Technology" from the name of the new policy bureau in charge of economic affairs and technology. Established in 1980, our organization is the largest and longest serving ICT trade association working toward the development of our industry and the application of ICT in all aspects of our economy.

Information and communications technology (ICT) is the key driving force for the success of all key economic sectors as Hong Kong transforms toward a knowledge-based economy. Our pillar industries including financial services and logistics depend on the application of ICT for its success. The Central People's Government has identified ICT and technology development to be of primary significance in its 11th Five Year Plan. Our regional and global competitors have all identified ICT as a strategic component for economic development. To maintain Hong Kong's advantages and beyond, not only is a sustainable and globally competitive IT industry vital, but also the proper recognition of ICT at the Government level.

We support the Administration in realigning the policy bureaus. But it sends the wrong message that "Technology" is dropped from the name of the new bureau, signifying a total neglect of the importance of ICT in the Government's policy agenda. The removal of "Technology" from the name of the new policy bureau will disadvantage Hong Kong especially when we deal with our regional peers and Mainland China itself on trade, business, standards and regulatory issues.

To reflect more accurately the fact that ICT and technology policy falls into the jurisdiction of "Commerce and Economic Development Bureau" and, more importantly, in recognition of the importance of ICT to Hong Kong as a knowledge-base economy, we urge you to rename the proposed Commerce and Economic Development Bureau as Economy, Commerce and Technology Bureau.

Sincerely,

Daniel Ng
President
Hong Kong Information Technology Federation

Cc:
Mr Stephen Lam, Secretary for Constitutional Affairs
Mr Joseph Wong, Secretary for Commerce, Industry and Technology
Panel on Constitutional Affairs, Legislative Council