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Hon Dr Joseph Lee  
Chairman, Panel on Health Services  
Legislative Council

Mar 4, 2009

Dear Hon Dr Joseph Lee,

**Developing an Electronic Health Record Sharing Infrastructure in Hong Kong**

I am writing on behalf of the Health Information Technology Special Interest Division (HITSID) of the Hong Kong Computer Society (HKCS) to urge the Panel on Health Services to offer support to the Government's initiative to develop a territory-wide electronic health record (eHR) sharing system.

As the health IT special group inside HKCS – the largest and oldest of IT professionals' association in Hong Kong – we have followed the development and applications of IT in healthcare in Hong Kong closely. We believe that the eHR development is in the right direction for Hong Kong as a whole, as well as for the IT industry and our professionals.

We believe that the IT industry must be involved and consulted in developing the strategy for the system, including matters of concerns such as eHR standards, certification scheme for compliance and inter-operability, business models and others. It is important to engage and send the clear message to all stakeholders, including the IT industry, as well as private healthcare providers which needs to urgently upgrade their health information systems in order to improve the quality and delivery of care to patients, reduce medical errors and costs of healthcare expenditure.



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The eHR initiative in the Government Budget 2009-10 is one of the most notable boost to the local IT industry. We believe that the eHR will create demand for skills and expertise for the local IT and health informatics industry. Accordingly, HITSID has been working with educational institutions to develop courses and degree programs to help develop the manpower support necessary.

The development of an eHR sharing infrastructure will build on the success of Hong Kong's development in health IT, and further position Hong Kong to become a service and training centre for e-Health in the Asia-Pacific region, including security, technical infrastructure and development, standards development, health informatics, data mining, privacy and clinical research. This will bring tremendous benefits to both Hong Kong and for the ICT industry.

We will endeavor to continue to work with the Government and all stakeholders on this initiative, as we have been in the past, and look forward to seeing the approval of this pivotal infrastructure by the Panel on Health Services and the Finance Committee of the Legislative Council.

Yours sincerely,

Charles Mok  
Chairman, HITSID of HKCS