



**Hong Kong
Internet Service
Providers Association**

4th March 2009

Chairman of the LegCo's Panel on Health Services
Legislative Council Secretariat
Legislative Council Building
8 Jackson Road, Central
Hong Kong

By Fax & By Post
(Fax : 2537-1851)

Attn : Dr. Joseph LEE Kok Long

Dear Hon Joseph Lee,

Developing an Electronic Health Record Sharing Infrastructure in Hong Kong

I am writing on behalf of Hong Kong Internet Service Providers Association ("HKISPA") to recommend the Panel on Health Services to support the Government's initiative to develop a territory-wide electronic health record ("eHR") sharing system.

We welcome the proposal to involve the Information and Communications Technology ("ICT") industry in developing the eHR sharing system, in accordance with the eHR standards and as guided by the certification scheme for compliance and inter-operability. We believe that our telecom, internet and IT expertise could also be deployed to support private healthcare providers in upgrading their information systems and infrastructures with sharing capabilities, which will improve the quality, reliability and delivery of care to patients, lower the healthcare expenditures, and minimize medical mistakes.

Being able to participate in this project and in many constructive partnerships, involving both public and private sectors across both healthcare and ICT industries, will be a major boost to the local ICT industry. We believe that the eHR sharing system will create demand for skills and expertise for the local ICT and health informatics industry. eHR sharing system will also make a significant contribution towards the Digital 21 strategy.

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The eHR system will play a crucial role in further developing Hong Kong as a leading digital city by building and attracting international skills and organizations to Hong Kong to develop clinical systems in partnership with local institutions, and meet the increasing demand from health sector for ICT systems. This in turn will provide business opportunities for ICT sector. Successful implementation of the eHR sharing system will enable local ICT expertise and vendors to be equipped with the necessary experiences for assisting in the development of similar systems in mainland China and in the region.

We believe that the development of an eHR sharing infrastructure is a prime opportunity for Hong Kong to become a service and training centre for e-Health Record in the Asia-Pacific region, including security, technical infrastructure and development, standards development, health informatics, data mining, privacy protection and clinical research.

We wish to be able to contribute to our society through this innovative initiative 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'York Mok', written over a horizontal line.



York Mok
Chairman
Hong Kong Internet Service Providers Association

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