



Hong Kong

*Innovating Tomorrow's Supply Chain*

5 March, 2009

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

Dear Hon Joseph Lee,

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

I am writing on behalf of GS1 Hong Kong to urge the Panel on Health Services to support the Government's initiative to develop a territory-wide electronic health record (eHR) sharing system.

As a global supply chain standards and technology organization, GS1 also has a global Healthcare Program to develop standards for Auto-identification, Traceability and Data Synchronization amongst healthcare providers and stakeholders to improve patient safety and healthcare quality. We see great synergy between HK eHR and GS1 global healthcare supply chain program.

We also welcome the proposal to involve the IT industry in developing the system, in accordance with the eHR standards and as guided by the certification scheme for compliance and inter-operability. We believe that our expertise in terms of standards and technology could also be deployed to support private healthcare providers in upgrading their information systems with sharing capabilities, which will improve the quality and delivery of care to patients, reduce medical errors and costs of healthcare expenditure.

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 industry, and meet the increasing demand from health sector for IT systems. This in turn will provide business opportunities for IT sector. Successful implementation of the eHR system based on world-recognized standards will enable local IT expertise and vendors to be equipped with the necessary skills and experiences in accelerating the development of healthcare systems in the 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 in the Asia-Pacific region, including security, technical infrastructure and development, standards development, health informatics, data mining, privacy and clinical research.



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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 "Anna Lin".

Anna Lin  
Chief Executive



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