

TO Dr Hon Joseph LEE Kok Long,  
Chairman of the LegCo's Panel on Health Services

Dear Dr Lee,

### **Development of a Territorial-Wide Electronic Health Record Sharing System**

I have read the document issued by the Food and Health Bureau on the "Development of a Territorial-Wide Electronic Health Record Sharing System" for discussion in the forthcoming Meeting of the Legislative Council Panel on Health Services, and I have the following comments:

1. As a citizen of Hong Kong, I support this strategic initiative which will improve the overall efficiency and effectiveness of the healthcare service in Hong Kong. A seamless healthcare service integrating the public and private sectors will provide citizens with wider service options appropriate to their individual needs, and provides the appropriate framework to support our healthcare reform irrespective of the directions such reform would take.

2. As an IT professional, I am excited and I welcome the challenges and opportunities to be brought about for our profession in the design and implementation of the territorial-wide infrastructure for electronic health record sharing, particularly in the areas of technical standards, information security, system interoperability and innovative application solutions.

3. As Chairman of EDS Hong Kong, an HP Company, I welcome the Government's expressed interests in PPP (private-Public Partnership) in the development and implementation of this strategic initiative. EDS, a global IT service organization with a major international presence in healthcare, together with HP, our parent company and the largest IT vendor in the world, strongly believe we have the resources and expertise to be a major partner of the Hong Kong Government and the Hospital Authority in this endeavour. I look forward to responding to the eHR Engagement Initiative (EEI) with proposals of innovative business partnership models which would provide mutual interests to Government and HP/EDS.

4. I welcome, and wish to emphasise the recognized importance of data privacy of medical and patient records. Last year's spat of loss of medical records by the HA, and the outcry from the community over such incidents, demonstrate the overarching sensitivity and the need for appropriate safeguard of these records. Privacy Impact Assessment (PIA) and Privacy Compliance Audit (PCA) exercises at various stages of the development and implementation of this initiative are essential to its sustained acceptance and usage by all the stakeholders, in particular the citizens of Hong Kong.

5. I will attend your Panel Meeting next Monday as a gesture of interest and in support of this initiative.

Yours sincerely,

*Stephen Lau*

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