

(Translation)

Motion on
“Studying the establishment of an innovation and technology bureau”
moved by Dr Hon Samson TAM Wai-ho
at the Legislative Council meeting
of Wednesday, 6 July 2011

Motion as amended by Dr Hon PAN Pey-chyou and Hon Emily LAU
Wai-hing

That with the constant changes and rapid development of new technologies in recent years and the resultant new challenges faced by the global economy, the development of an Internet-based economy is already an inevitable trend, and innovation and technology have also become a new development strategy of many countries, therefore, Hong Kong, while continuing to develop traditional industries, must formulate afresh a sustainable economic development strategy, so that through the development of new industries including innovation and technology, Hong Kong's competitiveness can be further upgraded; according to the findings of a survey on 'How the Internet is transforming Hong Kong's economy', in 2009, the total value of Hong Kong's Internet economy was already close to HK\$100 billion, representing 5.9% of the Gross Domestic Product ('GDP'), and it is expected that the Internet economy will continue to grow in the future at a rate even higher than the overall GDP growth rate, showing that the Internet economy will help upgrade Hong Kong's competitiveness vis-a-vis its neighbouring countries and cities, and will even become an important segment that can drive Hong Kong's economic progress and development; in order to facilitate the rapid and sustainable development of the Internet economy, the Government's participation and policy support are indispensable key elements; in this connection, this Council urges the Government to:

- (a) proactively study the establishment of an innovation and technology bureau specially tasked to co-ordinate and formulate Hong Kong's overall strategy of developing innovation and technology, so as to manifest the Government's determination and commitment in promoting the development of innovation and technology, and upgrade Hong Kong's international status in this respect;
- (b) provide preferential policies including land and taxation concessions, etc., to attract more enterprises on the Mainland and overseas, especially large technological enterprises, to come to Hong Kong for development or even set up headquarters in Hong Kong, so as to bring fresh impetus to Hong Kong's Internet economy and create more local employment opportunities, with a view to achieving economic development with employment as the priority;

- (c) earmark land in planning for developing innovation and technology, including using existing industrial estates, the Hong Kong Science Park and the land in the border river-loop areas as bases for innovation and technological research as well as the development of the relevant industries; and at the same time, capitalize on the edge of Hong Kong-Mainland connection to establish a platform for innovation and technology industries in the two places, so as to achieve co-ordination and complementarity of edge;
- (d) provide local universities and technological research institutes with sufficient resources, including specifying that the resources the Government puts into research and development must occupy a certain proportion in the Gross Domestic Product, and to tie in the relevant policies, so as to train more talents for developing innovation and technology, and promote the productization of university technological research projects; with the large enterprises from the Mainland and overseas coming to develop in Hong Kong, increase the opportunities for their exchanges with local talents, so as to upgrade the skills, quality and visions of local talents;
- (e) expeditiously reform Hong Kong's existing patent application system, including considering the progressive introduction of an 'original grant patent system' and enhancing the existing short-term patent system, so as to perfect Hong Kong's systems of patented invention and innovative design; and at the same time, protect the rights and interests of patent applicants, so as to enable local creativity to receive appropriate protection; and
- (f) strive for social and public recognition of developing innovation and technology in Hong Kong, so as to create an atmosphere and cultural environment of universal support for promoting innovation and technology and fostering the development of the Internet economy; and
- (g) learn from the bitter experience of developing Cyberport, adopt a transparent, open, fair and impartial approach to attract investors to develop in Hong Kong, and refrain from packaging property development projects as innovation and technology schemes.