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Panel on Information Technology and Broadcasting

Meeting on 10 July 2017

Updated background brief on the Smart City development

Purpose

This paper provides updated background information on the smart city development and summarizes the latest views and concerns expressed by Members on the subject.

Background

2. In the 2017 Policy Address, the Chief Executive reaffirmed the Administration's commitment "to developing Hong Kong into a smart city by using innovation and technology to enhance city management and improve people's livelihood". The Administration's objectives of smart city development are to:

- (a) address urban challenges to enhance city management and improve quality of living, sustainability, efficiency and safety of Hong Kong through making use of innovation and technology;
- (b) enhance city attractiveness to global business and talents;
and
- (c) inspire continuous city innovation and sustainable economic development.

Measures introduced that support smart city development

3. At the Panel on Information Technology and Broadcasting ("the Panel") meeting held on 13 June 2016, the Administration outlined the following initiatives and measures relating to information and communications technology ("ICT") infrastructure and Internet of Things ("IoT") technologies that would support smart city development in Hong Kong:

- (a) adopting sensors and related technologies in various fields to achieve respective policy objectives (such as collection of real-time transport data, detection of water levels in manholes of different types of drains, monitoring slope conditions for landslide prevention, etc.);
- (b) enhancing city connectivity through expanding the coverage of "Wi-Fi.HK" by doubling the number of hotspots, doubling the speed of Wi-Fi connection at government venues and strengthening security; and
- (c) providing a one-stop platform (i.e. "data.gov.hk") as the Government's Public Sector Information portal for free access to more than 6 000 datasets in digital, machine-readable format released by Government departments, public bodies and private organizations.

Consultancy study on smart city development

4. The Office of the Government Chief Information Officer ("OGCIO") has commissioned a consultancy study to formulate a Smart City Development Blueprint in Hong Kong as a holistic framework. This blueprint would comprise policy objectives and strategy, development plans, governance arrangements, digital infrastructure, legal framework, open data sharing, and public-private collaboration. The study, to be completed by mid-2017, will also include a package of smart city pilot proposals in selected locations as a test bed for technology and solutions. The Administration would accord priority to Kowloon East.

Smart city pilot area

5. Kowloon East was identified as the smart city pilot area in the 2015 Policy Address. According to the Administration, the smart city development in Kowloon East aims at leveraging people-centric information and communications technology solutions for the sharing of data to improve the use of resources and enhance the management of

pedestrian and vehicular traffic flows. The Energizing Kowloon East Office ("EKEO") has been inaugurated on 7 June 2012 to steer, supervise, oversee and monitor the development of Kowloon East with a view to facilitating its transformation into another premier central business district of Hong Kong to support our economic growth and strengthen our global competitiveness. EKEO has commissioned a consultancy study in February 2016 to formulate the smart city development in Kowloon East. The framework will focus on tackling issues and problems in the district, such as mobility of vehicles and people, as well as improving the environment.

Previous discussions

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6. At the Panel meeting held on 13 June 2016, the Panel was briefed on the Administration's plan to formulate a blueprint for building Hong Kong as a smart city and the scope of the proposed consultancy study to be conducted. The consultancy would cover areas such as development plans and strategy, governance arrangements, digital infrastructure, legal framework, public-private collaboration, and pilot proposals and projects related to the development of smart city.

7. The Panel also noted that Kowloon East would serve as a test bed for smart city development due to the new commercial buildings and business developments to be constructed would be suitable for implementing the new initiatives in applying technology and solutions on a district basis. The initial plans for the smart city included building a low carbon green community and enhancing pedestrian and vehicular accessibility.

8. The Panel generally supported the Administration's initiative to build Hong Kong as a smart city. Some members considered the progress was too slow and that the application of innovation and technology was lagging behind other major cities in the world. Members commented that the Administration had no concrete policies and measures on smart city development. Members held the view that the Administration should consider the practical needs of the community before engaging a consultant to conduct relevant studies on the implementing measures for such needs. Members also expressed concerns about the possible overlap of consultancy studies being carried out by EKEO and the one conducted by the Central Policy Unit in previous years.

9. Members expressed concerns on the coordination between EKEO and other government departments on the implementation of smart city initiatives in Kowloon East. The Administration assured Panel members that it had accorded high priority in implementing smart city in Hong Kong and would implement the relevant measures in accordance with the recommendations given in the consultancy report through interdepartmental cooperation.

10. Members were of the views that inter-departmental joint efforts in using innovative ideas and technologies to improve people's daily lives should be encouraged so that information on smart city development could be effectively shared. Members suggested that the Administration should formulate a legal framework to facilitate the release of data from both the public and private sectors, and enhance the personal data privacy protection and information security in smart city development.

11. With regard to the digital infrastructure and application of IoT in smart city development, the Administration advised the Panel that the consultant study would map out an appropriate digital infrastructure, including: digital platforms and infrastructure for data collection, storage, distribution, transfer, sharing, analysis and applications; technical standards suitable for Hong Kong; communications and network infrastructure required to support smart city development; and mechanisms to ensure information security, privacy protection, scalability and interoperability among components of the infrastructure. City-related data and personal data so collected should be processed and stored separately in order to ensure protection of personal data privacy. The Administration also mentioned that some government departments as well as public and private organizations had been adopting sensors and related technologies in various fields to achieve their respective policy and business objectives through IoT technologies.

Special FC meeting

12. At the special FC meeting on 3 April 2017, Hon Tanya CHAN sought information, among other things, on the progress and achievements of the work on supporting the formulation of digital framework and technical standards for smart city development. Meanwhile, Dr Hon Fernando CHEUNG asked if the Administration had considered the needs of persons with disabilities in the development of smart city. Ir Dr Hon LO Wai-kwok asked whether the Government has considered setting up an inter-departmental task force or committee to map out comprehensive policies and strategies for smart city development, and actively allocate resources to develop Hong Kong into a low-carbon green and smart city.

13. Furthermore, Hon Charles MOK also sought information on the details of the consultancy to develop a smart city blueprint, including public engagement activities being conducted, long-term development plans in different policy areas and sectors, implementation timetable as well as co-operation and exchanges with other cities for experience-sharing on smart city development. Dr Hon Elizabeth QUAT enquired about the digital framework and standards for smart city development, and Hon WU Chi-wai sought information from the Administration about the initial targets for the smart city development. Members' questions and the Administration's response can be accessed through the link as indicated in Appendix I.

Latest position

14. The Administration will brief the Panel on 10 July 2017 on the latest work progress of smart city development.

Relevant papers

15. A list of the relevant papers is set out in the **Appendix I**.

Appendix I

List of relevant papers

Issued by	Meeting date/ Issue date	Paper
Panel on Information Technology and Broadcasting	13 June 2016	Administration's paper on smart city development in Hong Kong CB(4)1087/15-16(04) Minutes of meeting CB(4)1266/15-16
	14 July 2016	Administration's response on supplementary information CB(4)1248/15-16(01)
2017 Policy Address	18 January 2017	Policy Address Policy Address
Special Finance Committee	3 April 2017	Administration's replies to Members initial written questions (Reply Serial Nos. ITB106, ITB160, ITB171, ITB180, ITB202 and ITB216) http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr16-17/english/fc/fc/w_q/itb-e.pdf
Innovation and Technology Bureau	N/A	SmartCity HK Hong Kong Smart City Portal