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## INFORMATION NOTE

### National Information Infrastructure: Supplement

This information note is made in response to Members' request raised in the last meeting of the LegCo Panel on Information Policy dated 13 June 1997. During the meeting, Members raised three questions, namely, the time of establishment of the overseas NII steering committees, details on the tax incentives on the donations of computers to schools and future plans of the overseas NII steering committees. The Research and Library Services Division prepared and presented the requested information as follows:

#### 1. Time of Establishment of the Overseas NII Steering Committees

1.1 Table 1 gives the details of the time of establishment of the overseas NII steering committees.

**Table 1 - Time of Establishment of the Overseas NII Steering Committees**

Country	NII Steering Committee	Time of Establishment
Germany	State Secretarial Committee of Information Society	Beginning of 1996
Thailand	National Information Technology Committee	March 1992
UK	Ministerial Committee on IT	February 1996
US	Information Infrastructure Task Force	1993

Sources:

1. <http://www.whitehouse.gov/>
2. <http://www.open.gov.uk/>
3. <http://nitc.go.th/>
4. Info 2000:Germany's Way to the Information Society, German Ministry of Economics: 1996

1.2 Singapore formulated the blueprint for NII in August 1991 and assigned the National Computer Board to guide the development of the NII in the same year.

## 2. Tax Exemption on Donation to Schools

2.1 In the US, there are legislative proposals to give tax incentives to businesses to encourage donations to schools. Please see Table 2 for details.

**Table 2 - Tax Exemption on Donation to Schools**

Act Title	Features
21st Century Classroom Act for Private Technology Investment (referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Expands tax incentives to corporations which donate computer technology, equipment and software to schools or non-profit-making organizations involved in primary and secondary education: these corporations could deduct from its taxable income an amount up to half of the depreciated value of the donated equipment, but not to exceed twice of its cost;</li> <li>- Provides a 110% tax credit for corporations that donate cash to schools and non-profit-making organizations involved in primary and secondary education, for the purpose of purchasing computer technology, equipment and software.</li> </ul>
Computer Donation Incentive Act (introduced in April 1997)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Provides an enhanced tax deduction (which is equivalent to the production cost of the equipment plus half of the profit that the manufacturer would have received if the equipment had been sold on the market) to :               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) companies which donate computers, software, and related training for educational purposes to public elementary and secondary schools, libraries, recreational centres and other government entities;</li> <li>(ii) non-computer manufacturers that make charitable computer contributions within three years of the date that the computers are purchased;</li> <li>(iii) companies which donate up to eight hours of teacher training associated with hardware and software donations or provide computer training to people with disabilities;</li> <li>(iv) companies which repair and refurbish equipment that is subsequently donated to schools and qualified government organizations; and</li> <li>(v) companies which donate digital augmentative speech devices.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

Sources:

1. [http://www.house.gov/ways\\_means/](http://www.house.gov/ways_means/)
2. <http://thomas.loc.gov/>
3. <http://house.gov/cunningham>

### 3. Future Plan of the Overseas NII Steering Committee

3.1 Table 3 summarizes the future plans of the State Secretarial Committee of Information Society, the NII steering committee of Germany.

**Table 3 - Future Plans of the State Secretarial Committee of Information Society of Germany**

Future Plan	Objective	Timing
Telecommunications	- end the monopoly on telephony	Jan. 1998
Education and training	- develop multimedia software for use in education; - equip educational institutions with modern hardware and software; - teacher training; - include new media in artistic and cultural education.	in progress
IT strategy in public administration	- establish the Berlin-Bonn information association; - establish the IT infrastructure linking the whole federal government; - provide services and applications appropriate for multimedia use;	- end of 1997 - 1998 - 2000
Health care and preventive health care	- analyze the possible uses of IT in medicine in conjunction with all health care institutions	in progress

Source: Info 2000:Germany's Way to the Information Society, German Ministry of Economics: 1996

3.2 Future plans of the other overseas NII steering committee such as Korea, the UK and the US can be found in the research paper, entitled "Overseas National Information Infrastructure Policies" (RP06/96-97).

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June 1997  
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