



CB11/1311/98-99

來函檔號 YOUR REF :
本函檔號 OUR REF : CB1/PL/ITB
電話 TELEPHONE : 2525 3331
圖文傳真 FACSIMILE : 2121 0420

5 May 1999

Director of Administration
(Attn : Mrs C YAU, JP)
12th floor, West Wing,
Central Government Offices
11 Ice House Street,
Central, Hong Kong.

Dear Mrs YAU,

**Information paper prepared by the Administration for
Members of the Executive Council for discussion of the Cyberport project**

On behalf of the Panel on Information Technology and Broadcasting (ITB), I write to seek your assistance in obtaining a set of papers prepared by the Administration for Members of the Executive Council for discussion of the Cyberport project.

At today's meeting of the ITB Panel when members considered the financial arrangement for the Cyberport project and a related funding proposal due for submission to the Public Works Subcommittee (PWSC) on 12 May 1999, members have expressed grave concern about the Administration's decision on granting the development right for the Cyberport project to Pacific Century Group. A member also queried the reason for not requiring the consultant commissioned by the Government for the Cyberport project to study how Hong Kong can compete with its Asian neighbours and the pros and cons of offering subsidy in order to enable the project to go ahead since it is apparent the project will not materialize if it were left entirely to the private sector.

Panel members would appreciate it if you could provide a set of papers prepared by the Administration for Members of the Executive Council for discussion of the Cyberport project so that members could have a better understanding of the subject matter. This would also facilitate members' consideration of the related PWSC submission on 12 May 1999.

Thank you for your kind assistance and I look forward to your early reply.

Yours sincerely,



(SIN Chung-kai)

Chairman

Legislative Council

Panel on Information Technology and Broadcasting

c.c. Mr K C KWONG, JP, Secretary for Information Technology and
Broadcasting,

政府總部
香港下亞厘畢道



GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT
LOWER ALBERT ROAD
HONG KONG

本函編號 Our Ref.:

CB1/PL/ITB

10 May 1999

來函編號 Your Ref.:

The Honourable Sin Chung-kai,
Chairman
Legislative Council Panel
on Information Technology and Broadcasting
Legislative Council Building
Jackson Road
Central
Hong Kong

URGENT

Dear Mr Sin,

Information Paper prepared by the Administration for
Members of the Executive Council
for discussion of the Cyberport Project

Thank you for your letter of 5 May 1999.

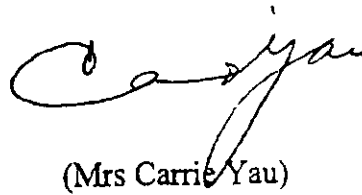
It is our long-standing principle to keep Executive Council papers and records of proceedings confidential to ensure the effective functioning and the free exchange and presentation of views at the Executive Council meetings. It has previously been accepted by the courts in Hong Kong that Executive Council papers are analogous to Cabinet papers and are therefore entitled to a high degree of protection from disclosure. In view of the above, I hope you would agree that there is not any overriding reason to make an exception in this particular case. I therefore regret that the paper prepared for the Executive Council on the Cyberport cannot be released as requested.

Having said that, the Information Technology and Broadcasting Bureau briefed the Legislative Council Panel on Information Technology and Broadcasting immediately after the Budget on 8 March 1999 on the Cyberport and undertook to keep the Panel updated on the detailed financial analysis. Upon completion of the financial analysis for the project, joint meetings of the Information Technology and Broadcasting Panel and the Planning, Lands and Works Panel were held on 29 April and 5 May 1999. I understand that the contents of the above-mentioned Executive Council paper have been fully reflected in an information paper issued to the two Panels on 29 April and supplementary information requested by Members has also been provided. I trust that this has helped to facilitate Members to have a better understanding of the matter.

- 2 -

In respect of the scope of the consultancy on the strategic assessment of a Cyberport in Hong Kong, I understand that the Information Technology and Broadcasting Bureau has already explained to Members that the study has included economic benefits to be offered by the Cyberport. Because of the global nature of information technology and services, three case studies of Cyberports in different parts of the world, involving different degrees of participation of Government and the private sector, have been studied in greater detail.

Yours sincerely,



(Mrs Carrie Yau)
Director of Administration