

**A Submission to the  
Legislative Council Panel On Security  
Regarding  
The Proposed Hong Kong Smart ID Card  
11 November 2000**

The Hong Kong Information Technology Federation (HKITF) welcomes the proposal to implement the use of Smart ID card technology and fully supports the government effort in building a better Hong Kong through the use of technology. We are willing to be a working partner in the planning, development and implementation of this very important project. Our views are:

1. The Smart ID card system is only a 'tool'. Implementing the technology should never be the objective. Applying the technology to improve the citizen's daily life and increase Hong Kong's overall competitiveness is the desired goal.
2. The protection of security and privacy is of vital importance and must first be addressed. With today's technology, very high-level security can be achieved. However, we must also remember that there is no 100% security in any system, we must target 100% risk management to strike a balance.
3. The 3 deadly sins of I.T. project failure is: over ambitious; poor management, and inadequate communication with the users. We suggest that the government takes the Keep It Simple Steady (KISS) approach in project implementation to avoid any pitfall.
4. Keep It Simple: we suggest that Smart ID card be used for personal identification ONLY and storing only the minimum essential data on the card. Any other nice to have transactional data (such as change of address and library record) should be stored (same as the current system) outside the ID card in a secure system. We suggest the use of 'contact type' cards to eliminate the risk of unauthorized information retrieval using a wireless device.
5. Keep It Steady: we suggest the project be 'start small' so that the project can be manageable and gets moving promptly. Then, scale up the project to include applicants after Hong Kong people have built up their confidence in the Smart ID card. A prudent system implementation plan with close monitoring and constant reporting is required. Increasing the project transparency is of equal importance to gain user acceptance and co-operation.
6. As an integral part of the global economy, the success of Hong Kong depends on the innovative use of information technology. Provision of community and financial infrastructure (such as electronic purse and library card should be encouraged. But this extra data must be stored in a SEPARATE and OPTIONAL daughter card.
7. Discussion of an intelligent ID card has been debated within the I.T. Industry since 1988. The intelligent ID card system is mature. It is imperative for the success of the project that there is a keen sense of timing and should not be delayed any more.

Anthony Au, President, H.K. Information Technology Federation, [aau@abc.com.hk](mailto:aau@abc.com.hk)