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Hon Dr Joseph Lee  
Chairman  
Panel on Health Services  
Legislative Council  
Hong Kong

Dear Hon Dr Joseph Lee,

**Developing an Electronic Health Record Sharing Infrastructure in Hong Kong**

On behalf of Internet Society Hong Kong, I would like to express our support for the Government's initiative to develop a territory-wide electronic health record (eHR) sharing system, and we would urge your Panel to endorse the funding proposals.

As the Hong Kong chapter of Internet Society, the largest Internet user and professionals' association in the world, we have been most concerned with the governance and applications of Internet related technologies in public service all over the world. We are strongly in support of Hong Kong's development in eHR and we look forward to be involved with the rest of the IT industry in developing the system, in a standard-compliant and interoperable manner. In addition to the benefits to the industry, more importantly, the development will go a long way in improving the quality of healthcare in Hong Kong.

We believe that the Internet and Web 2.0 technologies will play an even stronger role in the future IT applications in healthcare, including eHR and other related systems, to enable more interactivity, sharing of data, and openness. This will allow more parity between the public and private healthcare systems, and more control in the hands of the citizens. Needless to say, the market opportunities for such expertise will be highly useful, from Hong Kong to the rest of the world.

At the same time, we believe that the Government must set up an open, transparent and effective governance structure for eHR development, from its strategy to execution, and from development to operation. This will be critical for the success of this initiatives. As we all know, there are a number of critical issues to be resolved, including security, technical standards, infrastructure support, privacy and public awareness. We will continue to work with the Government as well as monitor this initiative. We hope that the Government will continue to consult and engage the public and the relevant stakeholders, and make sure that the right messages are conveyed to the public and the IT and healthcare industries.

With this, we urge the approval of this pivotal infrastructure by the Panel on Health Services and the Finance Committee of the Legislative Council.

Yours sincerely,

Charles Mok  
Chairman  
Internet Society Hong Kong