ITJC **HONG KONG INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY JOINT COUNCIL**
香　　港　　資　　訊　　科　　技　　聯　　會

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February 26, 2009.

Dear Hon Joseph Lee,

Developing an Electronic Health Record Sharing Infrastructure in Hong Kong

I am writing on behalf of the Hong Kong Information Technology Joint Council (HKITJC) to urge the Panel on Health Services to support the Government's initiative to develop a territory-wide electronic health record (eHR) sharing system.

HKITJC welcomes the proposal to involve the IT industry in developing the system, in accordance with the eHR standards and as guided by the certification scheme for compliance and inter-operability. We believe that our expertise could also be deployed to support private healthcare providers in upgrading their information systems with sharing capabilities, which will improve the quality and delivery of care to patients, reduce medical errors and costs of healthcare expenditure.

Being able to participate in this project and in many constructive partnerships, involving both public and private sectors across both healthcare and IT, will be a major boost to the local IT industry. We believe that the eHR will create demand for skills and expertise for the local IT and health informatics industry. eHR will also make a significant contribution towards the Digital 21 strategy.

The eHR system will play a crucial role in further developing Hong Kong as a leading digital city by building and attracting international skills and organizations to Hong Kong to develop clinical systems in partnership with local industry, and meet the increasing demand from health sector for IT systems. This in turn will provide business opportunities for IT sector. Successful implementation of the eHR system will enable local IT expertise and vendors to be equipped with the necessary experiences for assisting in the development of similar systems in the mainland China and in the region.

We believe that the development of an eHR sharing infrastructure is a prime opportunity for Hong Kong to become a service and training centre for e-Health in the Asia-Pacific region, including security, technical infrastructure and development, standards development, health informatics, data mining, privacy and clinical research.

We wish to be able to contribute to our society through this innovative initiative and look forward to seeing the approval of this pivotal infrastructure by the Panel on Health Services and the Finance Committee of the Legislative Council.

Yours truly,

Kam-Fai Wong (Prof)
Chairman, HKITJC

Enclosure: Background of HKITJC