Hong Kong Information Technology Federation
香 港 資 訊 科 技 商 會

By Post, Fax & Email

Dr Joseph LEE Kok Long,
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Dear Hon Joseph Lee,

Developing an Electronic Health Record Sharing Infrastructure in Hong Kong

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

We welcome 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.

The eHR system will play a crucial role in further developing HK as a leading digital city by attracting international skills to HK to develop clinical systems in partnership with local industry, to meet the increasing demand from health sector for IT systems. This in turn will provide business opportunities for IT sector. The experiences we gain from the eHR system will equip local IT expertise and vendors to assist in the development of similar systems in the region.

We believe that the development of an eHR sharing infrastructure is a prime opportunity for HK 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 sincerely,

Daniel Ng,
President, Hong Kong Information Technology Federation
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