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From: [Reflection LL](#)

To: ceo@ceo.gov.hk

Cc: cksin@sinchungkai.org.hk ; iplau@reginaip.hk

Sent: Monday, October 29, 2007 10:46 PM

Subject: Consultation Document on IT in education

Dear Sir,

I am disappointed at the Consultation Document on IT in education.

It's the caption 'Right Technology at the Right Time for the Right Task', a rather unnecessary caption which catches my eye today. Once again I feel that the government fails to match what it needs to do with the very nature of tasks it should be doing.

When I, an ordinary Hongkonger, think of IT and education together, I expect messages on how the government views what it should do in teaching our kids. I expect to read about how it would implant the Right sense, the Right mindset, the Right outlook to our kids for facing their Time - the future.

Disappointedly, the caption tells me that the government is eyeing on the present, using the existing technology to do the tasks at present. Right Time - what Time? We are talking about education. It is education to our kids, preparing them for the future world, future challenges! The time is future. What technology? We are talking about IT which develops at an astonishing pace. We can't have the future technology in today's classrooms. But we can let the kids see how fast the IT goes in the outside world. What Tasks? Teachers' or students'? If it's for our kids, I'd say instead of 'tasks', it's a feel to the present world projecting a vision to the future.

It's time to open the kids' eyes to the world around. Have a vision which unreins their mind to the possible development and use of the IT in their future world. When we talk about IT in education, we should not limit ourselves to the technology but how to help our kids have a flexible mindset to the use of IT in their world, learning or working. Disappointedly, I fail to smell a bit of this throughout the document. The first two pages rightly point out the fast changing pace we, as an adult, feel now. So I expect to find more on in the details. But I fail.

Further disappointed is to read the press release on the foci of the document. Yet, the foci fully tell that the government will have nothing special in the coming years while the outside world is evolving. I just wonder what has been done in the past. Or the government is just playing the rhetoric.

The focuses of the proposed Third Strategy are:-

(a) to reduce teachers' workload in selecting appropriate digital resources and integrating them into learning and teaching activities by providing an on-line depository of curriculum-based teaching modules with appropriate digital resources. Each teaching module will contain practical advice on how to use IT for teaching, student activities, and assessment, as well as recommended digital resources for these activities; (is the government doing these now? I suppose so in the past few years)

(b) to emphasise on pedagogical applications of IT in future teacher professional development activities;(is the government doing these now? I suppose so in the past few years)

(c) to assist schools to draw up and implement school-based plans to integrate IT into education. To reduce the workload of school leaders, EDB will prepare sample IT in education roadmap, strategies, and evaluation tools for schools' reference; and organise training on implementation of school-based plans;(what happened in the past? Is third phase of IT implementation, schools still require 'sample' ?)

(d) to enable schools to maintain effective IT facilities by providing a \$200 million one-off grant for replacing and upgrading their IT facilities. EDB will seek to make existing recurrent operational grants more flexible for schools to meet the recurrent need of replacing and upgrading IT facilities, in addition to using the existing recurrent Composite IT Grant to meet expenses on IT consumables and technical services;(One-off? i.e. no more new investment to schools for the changing world. We are talking about ITworld, a fastmoving dynamic one, but not Stone Age.)

(e) to continue collaboration with IT organisations to provide back-up technical services to schools. EDB will set up a dedicated team to support schools in integrating IT into education; and (are they doing these now? What happened in the past? I suppose there has been a 'dedicated' team in particular when it was new to school in old days, say, 10 years. Why so late?)

(f) to collaborate with non-governmental organisations (NGOs) to raise information literacy of parents and launch programmes on parental guidance on e-learning at home. (Are they being done now? Will the government help parents understand the privacy and copyright matters in an Internet environment and help their kids. How about the poor? How can they be helped?)

Last, I am speechless to read "We should not rush into the future. It will come soon enough. In the meantime, teachers and schools should build on what our students already know, that ICT is part and parcel of life and learning." Hey, this is an IT world and here is Hong Kong. HK is facing the competition with our brothers and sisters in the hinterland. More, just open our eyes to a bit westward. India is rising. It is outsourcing outsourcing all around the world. We should keep our schools and kids abreast of the most advanced development, both technology and how people are thinking in using them in the actual world.

With globalization, everyone says "A Flat World". I would say it is also a world with no-sun-set. It's not the how to focus on "Technology" but how to nurture in our kids a 'flexible outlook" to the future world of IT instead. The kids are the pillars of our future HK. The government should devote itself to helping them to face learning, living and working in the fast changing world ahead.

Merely from the title 'Right Technology at the Right Time for the Right Task' already tells how far you are reaching and can reach now. Rightly to speak we should not push ahead the technology, but wrong to neglect any mention of how to nurture the kid's mind and altitude in using IT to explore the world.

We can't foretell the technology in future. But I expect you have the vision to foresee the world's trend and get our kids be prepared for that.

cc to Mr Sin Chung-kai, Legislative Councillor (ITFC) as I trust Mr Sin should read the document and see more than this disappointed hongkonger.

cc to Mrs Ip as I agree with her that Hong Kong should not only focus on developing its financial arm but also on innovative advanced technology which IT does play a role.

Thanks,
Disappointed Hongkonger L L