

Consultation (ITED)

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副本:

主旨: Third IT Strategy Comments

附件:

Dear Sir

I agree with most of the suggestions in the Third IT Strategy paper. However I do have reservations on a few points.

The paper proposes to use existing fundings to cover the replacement and upgrade of IT equipment. I found this unacceptable. If one discounts staff salary and other special grants earmarked for specific expenditures, each school has just around one million dollars per year to pay for other expenses. But the school needs about 300,000 dollars per year to replace existing equipment, including the computers, projectors, servers and network backbones. Schools can hardly afford to use existing fundings to replace the IT equipment, let alone to develop it. I urge the government to make additional allowance for IT equipment in the OEBG.

Also I think the Government should take a more active role to direct the development of IT in education. It should not dictate how schools make use of IT. On the other hand, it should not leave schools to do everything by themselves. For example, the use of ebooks is likely to be an upcoming trend. The government should at least set up a committee to decide on the standard of ebooks (standard in the technical sense, like what language to use, key interface elements and so on, not how well the books are written). Then it should conduct pilot studies to look into the pros and cons of ebooks and provide incentives for school implementation until the technology is ripe. If the Government does not do this, Hong Kong will likely lose the technological lead. Indeed, South Korea has a firm plan for the wide adoption of ebooks already. Hong Kong needs more government direction to catch up.

I hope my recommendations will be implemented. Thank you.

Best regards

Kwok But
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