

## IT Sector Disappointed with Government Budget (Press Release)

(March 9, 2009) IT professionals are not satisfied with the recently released Budget 2009-10, an industry survey reveals. The survey, conducted by Charles Mok, Chairman of Internet Society Hong Kong, and Vice Chairman of The Professional Commons, finds that IT professionals rate the Budget at 3.1 when they are asked to rate it from 0 to 10 with 10 as the highest mark. The majority of the respondents believe the work of the government in the preservation of IT jobs, development of the competitiveness of local IT sector and information infrastructure as “poor” or “very poor”. Mr Mok urges the government to reconsider and appropriate its fiscal surplus to achieve the above-mentioned goals.

The online survey was jointly conducted by Mr Mok and IT Voice, a group of Election Committee members from the IT sector, to collect views from IT professionals on the Budget 2009-10, especially on IT-related measures. The survey successfully collect views from about 200 IT people.

Mr Mok said the survey results reflect that industry professionals are in general dissatisfied with the budget. Although nearly half of the respondents considers the emphasis of IT in this Budget is “about the same” as in the past, 35% think the emphasis was decreased, much higher than the 4% who believe the opposite. When interviewees were asked to rate the budget in general, the average mark was 3.12 at a ten-point scale, a mark far below the acceptable level. Over 60% of the respondents give zero to three points to the Budget (64%). Only one tenth gives five or more points (11%).

Concrete measures proposed in the budget are below the industry’s expectations. Though around 30% of respondents agree the introduction of e-health record system will benefit the sector, few think the other measures mentioned are relevant. It is alarming to see nearly 30% of respondents think that none of the measures suggested in the Budget benefits the industry.

Mr Mok further explains that the items in Question 2 were selected from the highlights of the budget, representing the IT-relevant measures in the Budget. “The negative feedback from the industry, thinking none of the measures will benefit the sector, reflects the industry’s discontent.”

Government’s efforts on promoting the development of local IT sector also receive low ratings. More than 80% of respondents think government’s efforts in preserving IT jobs are “poor” or “very poor”. For “promoting competitiveness of IT sector” and “developing information infrastructure”, more than 90% and 70% of the respondents rate government’s efforts as “poor” or “very poor”, respectively, indicating serious concerns from the IT industry regarding its prospects.

Mr Mok says the government did not try its best to strengthen local information infrastructure. “I believe the general public will certainly support the government to strengthen its internal IT security even during economic downturn.” Mr Mok says, “By improving local information infrastructures, the government not only can provide better public services but also preserving more IT jobs.”

“The Professional Commons, IT Voice and Internet Society Hong Kong submitted the ‘10 Information Infrastructure Projects’ proposal to the Financial Secretary early this year. The

purpose of that proposal was to propose timely and appropriate information infrastructure projects for government's adoption." Mr Mok reveals he was disappointed that only e-health record system and the concept of the e-citizen accounts were adopted. "The government should at least help schools to hire IT assistants and provide permanent funding for HKCERT."

Mr Mok urges the government to reconsider, so as to create and preserve more IT jobs by adopting more information infrastructure projects, while the government's fiscal position is in relatively good shape to invest in Hong Kong's future.

Contacts:

Charles Mok ([charles.mok@procommons.org.hk](mailto:charles.mok@procommons.org.hk)) [Chairman, Hong Kong Internet Society; Vice Chairman, The Professional Commons]

## 2009-10 財政預算案(資訊科技部份)調查結果

### Survey Result of 2009-10 Budget (IT section)

**Q1. 你認為今次預算案對資訊科技的重視程度較過去**

**In your opinion, the emphasis on ICT by the Government in this Budget, compared with previous years, is**

	人數 / Frequency	%
增加 Increasing	8	4.04%
減少 decreasing	69	34.85%
差不多 About the same	93	46.97%
不知道 I have no idea	25	12.63%
無意見 I have no opinion	3	1.52%

**Q2. 你認為今次預算案最能令本港資訊科技界受惠的措施是**

**Which of the following initiatives in the Budget do you think most benefit the IT sector?**

	人數   Frequency	%
教育互聯網用戶安全使用互聯網 One-year education program on online safety for young Internet users	9	4.55%
推動「深港創新圈」吸引海外企業到港科研 Attract overseas enterprises to conduct research and development in Hong Kong	14	7.07%
探討發展第三期科學園的可行性 Explore the feasibility of and development plans for Phase 3 of the Science Park	8	4.04%
擴闊創新科技基金範圍 Expand the scope and relax the criteria of Innovation and Technology Fund	28	14.14%
設立專責辦公室發展創意經濟 Set up a dedicated office for coordinate the development of creative industry	9	4.55%
發展電子健康紀錄系統 Develop a territory-wide e-health record system	59	29.80%
設立長者專門網站及開辦為長者而設的資訊科技課程 Set up a dedicated portal and provide computer courses for elderly	9	4.55%
沒有 None of the above	59	29.80%
無意見 No opinion	3	1.52%

**Q3. 你認為政府在保障本港資訊科技業職位的工作**

**Government's effort in retaining ICT jobs**

	人數 / Frequency	%
1 (最差   very poor)	88	44.44%
2	76	38.38%
3	30	15.15%
4	4	2.02%
5 (最好   very good)	0	0.00%

**Q4. 你認為政府在促進本港資訊科技業的競爭力的工作**

**Government's effort in promoting the competitiveness of local ICT industry**

	人數 / Frequency	%
1 (最差   very poor)	103	52.55%
2	77	39.29%
3	13	6.63%
4	3	1.53%
5 (最好   very good)	0	0.00%

**Q5. 你認為政府在發展本港資訊基建的工作**

**Government's effort in developing Hong Kong's information infrastructure**

	人數 / Frequency	%
1 (最差   very poor)	58	29.59%
2	81	41.33%
3	45	22.96%
4	10	5.10%
5 (最好   very good)	2	1.02%

**Q6. 你對香港資訊科技業前景**

**The prospect of Hong Kong's ICT industry**

	人數 / Frequency	%
1 (最差   very poor)	43	21.94%
2	81	41.33%
3	59	30.10%
4	13	6.63%
5 (最好   very good)	0	0.00%

**Q7. 整體而言, 你給今次預算案多少分(0-10 分) |**

**Please rate this Budget by 0 to 10**

	人數 / Frequency	%
0	12	6.19%
1	27	13.92%
2	37	19.07%
3	48	24.74%

4	27	13.92%
5	20	10.31%
6	13	6.70%
7	5	2.58%
8	4	2.06%
9	1	0.52%
10	0	0.00%