



Myanmar Digital Rights Forum: Hong Kong as a Smart City

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Introduction

- Hong Kong is the third most advanced digital economy in Asia Pacific and ninth in the world
- Recognised as one of the top thriving economies, behind Singapore, South Korea and Japan
- December 2017 – the Smart City Blueprint for Hong Kong was published
- February 2020 – it was announced that the Smart City Blueprint for Hong Kong 2.0 is to be published later this year
- The Blueprint sets out measures with focus on six key areas:
 1. Smart mobility
 2. Smart living
 3. Smart environment
 4. Smart people
 5. Smart government
 6. Smart economy

1. The Smart City Blueprint for Hong Kong

a. Smart Mobility

Hong Kong sees 12.9 million passenger journeys on public transport every day.

Hong Kong needs to address urban challenges and improve quality of living and efficiency.

Smart mobility initiatives:

- Development of in-vehicle units (IVUs)
- The Electronic Road Pricing Pilot Scheme
- Trialing of autonomous, zero-emission vehicles
- IoT-Augmented Airfield Service System (AS2)

Hong Kong has also seen increased digital engagement in travel this year

b. Smart Living

- 20,000+ Wi-Fi hotspots
- Mobile subscriber penetration rate of 242.5%
- Household broadband penetration rate of 92.5%
- 6% increase in ride-hailing app usage and 5% increase in subscriptions to digital entertainment services
- 9 major digital wallets

Initiatives:

- Healthcare initiatives (e.g. web-based clinical management systems and electronic record sharing systems)
- eIDs for Hong Kong residents
- Launch of the I&T fund
- Establishment of the Big Data Analytics Platform

b. Smart Living (cont.)

Despite this, less than one third of Hong Kong residents recognise Hong Kong as a smart city and this percentage has not seen year on year improvement.

This may however be improved with the launch of 5G.

It was announced in the 2020/2021 Budget that the government would be implementing measures to facilitate the development and application of 5G.

Including:

- Subsidy scheme for mobile operators to expand optical fibre networks
- Opening more suitable government properties, sheltered bus stops and phone kiosks for the establishment of radio base stations by operators

c. Smart Environment

To meet the commitment to reduce carbon intensity by 65-70% by 2030, the following initiatives have been put in place:

- Remote sensing devices to monitor pollution and emission levels
- Installation of eclectic vehicle charging facilities
- Promoting retro-commissioning
- HK Electric's Happy Green Campaign

d. Smart People

- Hong Kong could absorb more STEM talent
- 64% of corporates reported finding it difficult to source local STEM talent

Initiatives to tackle this include:

- Intensive STEM training programmes for curriculum leaders
- Enhanced IT training in schools
- Increased R&D collaboration with renowned institutions
- Financial and non-financial support for young entrepreneurs



e. Smart Government

- The Hong Kong Government has emphasised its intention to use technology in delivering information and services
- Currently, there are more than 226 e-government services

Notable initiatives include:

- Government Wi-Fi programme
- Gov-HK mobile apps
- The Electronic Transactions Ordinance (according electronic signature the same legal status as paper signatures)
- Adoption of Building Information Modelling (BIM) technology in major government capital works projects (announced in the 2015 Budget Speech)

f. Smart Economy

- Mobile banking – 61% find it easier to use than two years ago and users have increased by 14%
- Growth in P2P payments – 58% now using P2P
- FPS launched by the HKMA in September 2018 allowing all banks and e-wallet operators in Hong Kong to participate
- HKMA published a revised Guideline on the Authorisation of Virtual Banks and issued the first three virtual banking licences on 27 March 2019
- Personalised wealth management services
- AI applications to risk management

2. Outlook for Hong Kong as a Smart City

- Hong Kong currently ranks 37th in the IMD Smart Cities Index 2019, which compares to Singapore, ranked the world's smartest city (followed by Zurich, Oslo and Geneva)
- Singapore is focusing on deploying AI in five main sectors in their development as a smart city:
 1. Transport and Logistics
 2. Municipal Services
 3. Healthcare
 4. Education
 5. Border Security



2. Outlook for Hong Kong as a Smart City (cont.)

- If Hong Kong is to retain its position as an international business and finance hub, it needs to keep pace with other cities in the region.
- This can be done through:
 - Public-private partnerships;
 - Expanding government pilots to whole districts;
 - Increase government investment in city-wide smart infrastructure; and
 - The free exchange of big data.

2. Outlook for Hong Kong as a Smart City (cont.)

- Hong Kong needs to focus on reform of data privacy legislation (the Personal Data (Privacy) Ordinance) (PDPO)
- The following concerns as regards the PDPO must be addressed if Hong Kong is to foster a conducive environment for innovative technology and businesses:
 - Section 36 (the requirement to destroy and erase data)
 - Section 33 (*unenacted*) (the prohibition on the transfer of personal data outwith Hong Kong unless conditions are met)