



新聞稿 PRESS RELEASE

Technology Road Maps for Hong Kong: An In-depth Study of Four Technology Areas

A book entitled "Technology Road Maps for Hong Kong: An In-depth Study of Four Technology Areas" was published yesterday (July 15) in which the results of a detailed investigation into four technology areas with particular potentials for Hong Kong are summarized.

Partially supported by a grant from the Department of Industry, the investigation is undertaken by six publicly funded local tertiary institutions including The Chinese University of Hong Kong, City Polytechnic of Hong Kong, Hong Kong Baptist College, Hong Kong Polytechnic, Hong Kong University of Science and Technology and University of Hong Kong. The report was submitted to the Industrial Development Board earlier this year. It was edited by Prof Charles K Kao, Vice-Chancellor and Prof Kenneth Young, Chairman of the Department of Physics of the Chinese University.

According to Prof Kao, Hong Kong is a fertile ground with many opportunities and advantages for developing new technology-based industries and the tertiary education sector is ready to provide technical assistance for the development of these industries. It is the first time in Hong Kong, even in the world, that so many tertiary institutions pool together their resources and combine their expertise for such a project catering for the needs of the society. In the next phase of the project, a joint organization will be set up by the six tertiary institutions to respond to technical projects and consulting opportunities and provide appropriate technical support on demand for the private and public sectors.

The four technology areas discussed in the book are information technology, biotechnology, materials technology and environmental technology. Attention of the investigation is focused on illustrating the promising opportunities for developing industries in these technologies, particularly on identifying the missing technological links which would facilitate the exploitation of these opportunities.

According to the book, information technology has been dominated by the advanced industrial countries and large companies, but recent technological advances are opening up opportunities for new players to participate. The very up-to-date communications networks and the position of Hong Kong as an important commercial and financial centre combine to give the territory a potential opportunity to develop and implement new customers services. For example, developing a broadband network linking hospitals would reduce the cost of medical imaging and would create a world class capability in systems integration, software applications development and related hardwares.

Biotechnology is one of the most rapidly growing technology areas and Hong Kong has already made a start through activities at the tertiary educational institutions. The Hong Kong Institute of Biotechnology is actively pursuing downstream commercialization activities. By taking advantage of the strong R & D achievement in China and building up complementary industrial activities in Hong Kong, unique opportunities would be created for such application areas as medical electronics, manufacture of biological and diagnostic reagents, drugs delivery systems and food biotechnology.

Materials technology is a foundation to support current industries as well as to build capabilities to produce high-tech products. Better utilization of technology can aid such sectors as metals, plastics and composites, electronic materials and building materials. The book recommends more efficient development and utilization of expert knowledge.

The immense needs of protecting and improving the environment provides many opportunities for the development of environmental technology industry in Hong Kong. Waste treatment requires equipment specially designed for the cramped surroundings of typical Hong Kong factories. Other opportunities such as recycling, mass production of environmentally friendly products and government encouragement of local consultants and enforcement of legislation would all have a major positive impact on the growth of environmental technology industry which can become an exportable industry.

As a follow-up of the investigation, a symposium is being planned to take place later this year, during which the authors of the book and interested parties could meet for an in-depth discussion on the topic.

The book is now available for order at the price of HK\$500. Interested parties may order the book through the Office of Industrial & Business Development of the Chinese University. For enquiries, please call 6097864.

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