Address on the e-Government Day

at the Second Session of High-Level Forum

on City Informatization in the Asia-Pacific Region

Jiang Sixian, Secretary General of
Shanghai Municipal People's Government
( May 25, 2001)

Honored guests,
Ladies and gentlemen,

On the occasion of the opening of e-Government Day at the Second Session of High-Level Forum on City Informatization in the Asia-Pacific Region, I would like, on behalf of the Shanghai Municipal People’s Government and Shanghai people, to express my warm congratulations on the opening of the e-Government Day, and extend warm welcome to officials from the United nations, government officials from various cities, leaders in the IT community and experts or scholars from various walks of life.

The level of information development, as an important feature of modernized cities in the new century, is becoming an important index in measuring a city's comprehensive functions and investment environment. Today, with the rapid development of Internet technology, especially with the extensive application of information technology in finance, trade, communications and public services, a city can break the boundary of space and time in a second, while the radiating scope of information has greatly expanded. The rapid changes in the way of transmitting information, of interpersonal communications and of social management and organization gradually in the long process of human struggle for existence, are exerting profound influence on the reform of social life and governmental operation mode. With the transformation from industrial society to information society, and with the acceleration of city modernization, the trend of developing the network information is unchangeable. The network informatization system has already and will continuously make a notable impact on the process of city informatization. Facing the new situation and new problems arising in economic and social life, government should give timely response to the more and more social division of labor, and the integration of world economy, and rapid progress of regionalization, and other constantly changing situations. Government should cope with these changes as soon as possible, and make correct policy decisions which are suitable for the actual situation. This forum has defined the theme of the e-Government Day as Future Prospects for E-government Application, which fully conforms to the responsibility assumed by the government on city informatization development has both strong focus and great immediate as well as long-term significance. I hope that this e-Government Day will become a platform for all the participants to learn from each other by exchanging views on the e-Government Day as Future Prospects for E-government Application., and will display the guiding and promoting function of government in pushing forward the city informatization construction.

In the process of speeding up the city modernization, Shanghai will concentrate on the enhancement of its comprehensive competitiveness as its theme of future development. Through years’ of ceaseless efforts, Shanghai is trying to develop into one of the international economic,
financial, trade and navigation centers and to make its due attribution to the economic and social
development of the nation. Shanghai, on the basis of construction of Info-Port in the period of the
Ninth Five-Year Plan, now regards the comprehensive promotion of city informatization as its
basic strategy and key task. Shanghai will realize the leapfrogging of social productivity and
further promotion of the city modernization process through giving priority to the development of
informatization industries, while speeding up the construction of informatization infrastructure,
and promoting the extensive implication of informatization technology and building up good
social environment which is helpful to informatization development. At present, Shanghai has
constructed the broadband ATM mainstay of the city’s network composed of 8 nuclear connection
points and 90 marginal conjunctions, finished the construction of a batch of key projects and
information application systems. The rapid connection of broadband information networks has
laid a good foundation for the development of network application. The gradual improvement of
network environment has, in particular, greatly promoted the application of information
technology and development of information resources in government agencies as well as in all
walks of life on society. At present, the two levels of municipal government have both established
internal special-purpose intranets. All the public information of government administration can be
seen on network. The information systems of industrial, commercial and tax departments have
played a positive role in the improvement of working efficiency and service quality. This year,
Shanghai has already started the construction of network of official business and portal web-site of

shanghai china gov so as to realize the government’s e-administration through network as soon as
possible to offer better service to residents of the city.

Friends, ladies and gentlemen, the arrival of the information era will set a still higher demand
on the work of government, and subsequently, the demand on the change of government function
is becoming more and more urgent. In the five key areas, with consensus of opinions
e-government is ranked in the first in front of e-commerce, distance education, tele-medical
treatment and e-entertainment. This has fully indicated the extreme importance of informatization
in government operation. Government is occupying such an important position because it has lots
of information resources in hand, while it serves as the pivot between various social organizations.
Of course, many famous IT enterprises are in the same important position as government. They
hold many schemes for solutions with great insight on city informatization on tallying with
features of the times and our regional peculiarities.

I would like to wish, in advance, the success of the holding of the e-Government Day.

Thank you!