Stepping Up the Promotion of the Interactivity between Shanghai’s Informatization and Modernization

--Address on Shanghai Day of the CIAPR II

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Honored mayors from the Asian-Pacific region,
Distinguished guests,
Ladies and gentlemen:

Good afternoon! I am pleased to have this opportunity to meet all of you, both my guests and my friends here on Shanghai Day of the CIAPR II. In my presentation, I’d like to exchange with you on the issues of the wide application of information technology, the influence on the city modernization exerted by the deep process of information resources as well as the interaction among the informatization, industrialization and modernization in the context of the construction of Shanghai city informatization.

I. The City Informatization Is Greatly Promoting the Economic and Social Development in Shanghai

Focusing around the theme to strengthen the city’s comprehensive competitiveness, great efforts are being made to combine the informatization with all fields in various trades while ceaselessly promoting the new development of city informatization in the construction of Shanghai city informatization. The breakthroughs have especially been achieved in the aspects of information infrastructure, the development of information industry, the application of information technology, and the exploitage of information resources and the development of informatization on the improvement of environment, which play 4 important catalytic roles in accelerating the process of city informatization. Concretely, they are: a) The establishment and opening of the main project of the Info Port has set up an exemplary role in speeding up the new city infrastructure construction; b) the information industry, which has leapt into the first pillar industry plays a driving role in forming the climax of the new round of economic development; c) the establishment of a series of informatization application system plays a promoting role in enhancing the economic and social development level; d) the establishment of the basic structure of the informatization construction plays a protective role in building a good environment for informatization development.

The city economic and social development needs a perfect infrastructure construction and a reasonable industry structure as the support, especially needs the great improvement of developing, transforming and the application of modern technology achievement. Shanghai’s city informatization started from the large scale of the information infrastructure construction. Through years of efforts, the intensive information network is being built with an unprecedented speed, the communication
network on the ground has been built over 200 (trench) kilometers, totally 38800(fabric) kilometers’ optical cable have been built, the over 40 kilometers’ optical cable in the subway have been successfully completed, all of which provide the telecommunication operating and business corporations with a pipeline of 731 (line) kilometers and an optical cable of 1400 kilometers; the close circuit television is carrying out a large scale of two-way transformation, HFC has finished over 1/3 of the transformation of the CCTV users in the city and become the biggest city-area two-way CCTV in the world; the broadband ATM major network has formed the key network with 8 central joints and 90 marginal joints, while becoming the biggest ATM city-area network in the world; Shanghai Data Communication Network with ATM+IP as its network basic structure is one of the seven national key joints which greatly strengthens Shanghai’s key transmission network capability and international export capability; the broadband information interactive center as the internet infrastructure has greatly improved the various ISP interactive environment, while having achieved the local exchange of a large amount of information resources and promoted the application and development of the Internet in Shanghai; the climax speed of the super computer system’s sever has reached 384 billion times per second, and thus provided a forceful support for the scientific research in various economic and social areas. From these feedbacks, we can see that the reliance on the informatization by the government, enterprises and citizens has become a wide and irreversible social phenomenon.

Practice has proved that the great improvement of Shanghai information infrastructure technology and its service level has made informatization with its particular advantages play an irreplaceable role in promoting the economic and social development in Shanghai.

II. To Promote Industrialization through Informatization is the Strategic Choice for Shanghai to Realize Modernization

During the practice in Shanghai’s city informatization, we come to realize that apart from promoting the development of information technology and information industry, more essentially, the process of informatization provides a sound foundation for Shanghai to apply information and information technology in various fields of economic and social life, to use informatization to promote industrialization, to improve operating efficiency and working benefits in various areas of the society, to improve the development quality of the city and the life standard of the people and to take the lead to realize modernization.

In those days when we see in the early 1980s the American futurists Alvin Toffler’s and John Naisbitt’s moods towards the information society which they predicted, we held more slices of doubts than excitement. But today, with the rapid arrival of the information era pounded by the waves of information revolution, we really sense the great influence exerted by the informatization on the human being’s social life, and in addition, we are making efforts to adapt ourselves to such a kind of epoch-making changes. In some degree, the informatization, which is created by the human being is changing the mode of people’s thoughts as well as our existing and living style.
Expanding the use of informatization to arm our humans’ operation mechanism and mode in the traditional development model will increasingly display the urgency of our epoch. Today, the increasing development of information and information technology demands us to profoundly consider the issue how to accelerate the wider application of the information resources and information technology.

In recent years, with the rapid progress of Shanghai’s reform and opening, economic development as well as the city construction and management, the application of information and information technology is receiving an increasingly wide attention. Therefore, Shanghai has decided to make great efforts in the following three aspects. 1) to ceaselessly improve the technology standard of information infrastructure and the service level; 2) to ceaselessly improve the innovative and developing ability of the information industry; 3) to ceaselessly improve the degree of informatization of the whole society. These are the new requirements on the basis of the characteristics of both Shanghai and our epoch. As the largest old industrial production base in China, Shanghai has a relatively large traditional industrial scale, and a relatively perfect system. That is why Shanghai has the particular advantage to widely apply the information resources and information technology by use of the information technology while providing technology support and information service in the innovation and development of traditional industries, and meanwhile using the good basis of traditional industries to provide necessary facilitating and beneficial conditions for the development of city informatization. According to the current standard of Shanghai industrialization, only by full use of information and information technology to improve the efficiency of administrative management, the operating benefits of enterprises and the service level for the whole society, and to use informatization to bring along industrialization, can Shanghai take the lead to realize city modernization.

With the rapid progress of the new information infrastructure construction, according to the general arrangement by the Shanghai Municipal People’s Government, Shanghai has placed the broad application of information technology as the key project this year so as to mainly promote the “Five Informatization Application Projects”. The 5 projects are as follows. 1) to start the establishment of official network and the portal of “Shanghai, China” so that both the official network and the portal network will serve the society with a new appearance; 2) to assure the delivery and the smooth application of 6.5 million social security cards, promote the combination of social security and health security, and to promote the application of social security card, the “one card” for banking system and the “one card” for traffic system; 3) to accelerate the work of broadcasting trial of digital TV, to pay close attention to the experiments of two-way and interactive digital broadcasting and the experiment of ground broadcasting of digital television so as to put it into practical use as soon as possible; 4) to make all efforts to put forward the new development of e-business in Shanghai and to substantially start it by identifying the leading role of the government, demonstrating the principle role of enterprises and making use of the protective role of the environment; 5) to continue to pay special attention to the
construction of the key application system, to promote the construction of the geographical information system, traffic information system, and community service system so as to expand the space of the development and application of the city informatization. We will speed up the paces of applying the information technology and developing the information resources by making full use of the existing information infrastructures so as to open up a new way to better applying the information and information technology into the process of industrialization and supporting the process of modernization for the purpose of carrying out the city informatization strategy comprehensively in Shanghai.

III. Shanghai’s City Informatization Must Be Quickened with Modernization as Its Guide

In the process of accelerating the city informatization, we must make clear the positioning of informatization, industrialization and modernization as well as the inner relationship among them. Practices and experiences have proved that informatization is a means; industrialization is a carrier while modernization is an objective. Only guided by the objective of modernization, by making full use of the means of informatization and through the carrier of the process of industrialization, can we speed up promoting the frog leaping development of social productivity. I believe, that is the essence that informatization will promote industrialization, and also the fundamental element why informatization is full of vigor and vitality.

In order to ensure that the construction of Shanghai city informatization is oriented towards the city modernization, we need to ponder over and research the role of informatization in the objective frame of modernization, while carrying out the strategy and policy which will promote the industrial development and try our best to make some progress and breakthroughs in the important areas, aspects and joints. In this angle, we need to promote the city informatization by focusing on the following four points. Firstly, with the requirements of modernization, more attention will be focused on the construction of city informatization by the government. This is the basic premium for the interactivity between Shanghai’s informatization and modernization. We should actively explore the new operation mechanism of our government, further foster the main body of the market, while ceaselessly standardizing the actions in the market, forcefully synthesizing the public resources, practically strengthening the wide service and creatively carrying out the work with a new thinking; secondly, with the requirements of modernization, to focus more attention on the enterprise informatization. This is an effective dynamism for the interactivity between Shanghai informatization and modernization. We will bring along the improvement and upgrading of industrial structure by applying information technology to innovating traditional enterprises; we will enhance the standardization and the scientific level of the enterprise operation and management by applying information technology to innovating the business process of enterprises; we will improve the technical skills and business capability of enterprises’ employees by applying information technology to perfecting the training quality of the enterprises’ employees. Thirdly, with the requirements of modernization, more attention will be paid to the development of city-area informatization. This is a principal pillar for the
interactivity between Shanghai’s informatization and modernization. We will actively expand the working channels of informatization in the districts, and serve better for the communities, the residents and the basic levels by the extension of the district informatization carrier so as to reflect the city informatization purpose of “regarding people as the essentials”. Fourthly, with the requirements of modernization, more attention will be focused on the construction of informatization working system, mechanism, legalization and standard regulation, which is an important protection for the interactivity between Shanghai informatization and modernization. We need to ceaselessly set up and perfect in the practices, and put into practice strictly and earnestly.

Ladies and gentlemen, cities are not only the place for people gathered to study, work and live, but also the carrier of social and economic development. We, with a stronger responsibility, will make our efforts to build Shanghai into a wonderful home where people can enjoy their work and life.

Thank you.