Prospect Report
of IT Application in Asia

The 3rd Forum on City Informatization in the Asia-Pacific Region

The 3rd Forum on City Informatization in the Asia-Pacific Region
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Foreword

In the world today, economic globalization and informatization have become the general development trend of human society. The informatization degree and level have become the significant mark to measure the comprehensive power and civilization level of a city’s economic and social development. Informatization is now becoming a key impetus in global trade, investment, capital flows and technology transfer as well as in all fields of society, economy and culture, etc.

The development of Information Technology (IT) enables humankind to burrow and make use of the tremendous information resources hiding in material movement. The importance of information resources has become identical to that of material resources and is growing with each passing day. With the continuous promotion of knowledge and technology innovations, the combinations of material and knowledge productions, of hardware manufacturing and software development, and of traditional economy and information technology, will result in a powerful motive force for economic and social advancements of the 21st century.

It is well worth noting that the world today is witnessing a dramatic imbalance and an increasing gap in the development of information networking in various regions. Having an advantage in information technology and possessing more and more information resources, the developed countries have become rich in terms of information technology. On the other hand, the developing countries are relatively backward in information technology, not only with a low level of economic and social development but also with relatively poor informatization. In view of the world as a whole, the gap of informatization development is widening rather than narrowing. Without change of such situation, the South and the North will see a further enlarged gap in development and the world economy will be difficult to develop in a healthy way. The developed countries have the obligation to support the developing countries in technology, funds and human resources and to help promoting the course of the latter’s informatization.

Under the joint support of the United Nations agencies and Chinese Government, the Forum on City Informatization in the Asia-Pacific Region (CIAPR), centering on the development and cooperation of city informatization in the Asia-Pacific region, has provided a platform for the policy-developers and decision-makers of city informatization in this region to exchange their experiences in the development of the information industry and the applications of information technology, etc.

The *Prospect Report of IT Application in Asia*, as a research achievement of the Forum on City Informatization in the Asia-Pacific Region in this year, gives a comprehensive and centralized analysis and study on the informatization level of Asian countries. It will provide an important basis for the policy-making of informatization in each country, and serve as a key reference for market decision of IT enterprises.

Due to a hasty time, there is an unavoidable mistake and a lot of imperfections in this report. Here we would like to give a cordial welcome to readers to show your concerns about the Forum on City Informatization in the Asia-Pacific Region, and give your instructions in the *Prospect Report of IT Application in Asia*. 