E-Government Will Spur the Capital Informatization Process and Speed Up the Construction of Digital Beijing

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Informatization is one of the most important city development strategies when Beijing oriented toward the 21st century and the information society. The purpose of the informatization is to spur industrialization and modernization through informatization, while developing the capital economy with knowledge economy as its main content, and strengthening the competitiveness of the city and improving the living quality of its people. The “digital Beijing”, as the strategic goal and slogan of the city informatization of the capital, has been widely accepted by the whole society and is transforming into enormous social productive forces.

I. The Blueprint of City Informatization Described By the Tenth Five-Year Development Plan of the Capital’s Informatization

Recently the draft of the Tenth Five-Year Plan of the capital’s informatization is almost completed, in which it provides an outline of the informatization in the course of the Tenth Five-Year. According to the characteristics of city informatization and with the reference to the six elements of national informatization and the informatization of the main body, we have proposed a matrix framework model of the city’s informatization. Horizontally speaking, it is composed of 5 parts, i.e. we have 5 levels in order: information technology, information industry, information network, technological application of information and the development and utilization of information resources. Vertically speaking, it includes 9 aspects i. e : informatization organizational system,
environment of informatization of capital financing and investment, the operational mechanism, informatization policies, informatization of rules and regulations, informatization of standardization system, information security system, informatization publicity informatization human resources. We believe such kind of framework model can reflect the characteristics and intrinsic relations in the process of city informatization well.

The goal we have fixed in the Tenth Five-Year plan is to realize the informatization of national economy and social development while setting up a basic framework of a digital Beijing. Beijing will take lead in comprehensive level of informatization and join the ranks of world’s first class informatization city.

In the course of the Tenth Five-Year, the guiding principles we have made are: in line of suggestion concerning the “ Tenth Five-Year Plan of National Economy and Social Development of the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party” and according to the strategic plan of the Municipal Committee of the Party and the Municipal Government and the guiding principles of the nation in terms of informatization, centering the overall situation and urgent demands of capital’s modernization drive we should promote the application of IT in all fields of national economy and social development, with networks as the basis, the research and utilization of information resources as the core and the soft information environment as the safeguard. It will help develop the capital’s economy and raise the living quality of the people while making its contributions to the cause of Beijing’s being the first in realizing modernization.

During the Tenth Five-Year Plan, Beijing will unfold its work around the following 8 tasks: the first is to further promote the city cyberization, make good use of different network resources and to create a network environment with broad band and high speed. The second is to further explore and make comprehensive use of all kinds of information resources The third is to promote the e-Government Sevice ,the fourth, to realize informatization of national economy and enterprises so as to
realize e-business. The fifth is to advance the informatization of public affairs in order to improve the living quality of the people. The sixth is to strengthen the IT research and development so as to construct a IT innovation system. The seventh is to devote major efforts to developing the IT industry and to reinforcing the position of IT as the first pillar industry. The eighth is to realize the informatization of Zhongguancun Science and Technology Park.

We will also implement 21 major informatization projects coded as 48216 in the course of the Tenth- Five-Year Plan, which include: 4 information network projects, basic communication pipes and lines, the broad band network project of the city area, the capital public information platform project, the project of network specially used by the government; the 8 application projects are of areas like e-Government, e-business, enterprises informatization, scientific and educational network, social security information system; social community informatization, security of market order, safeguard of public safety. The 2 exploration and utilization projects of information resources are the space information project and information resources network project. The one regional informatization model project is that of Zhongguancun Science and Technology Park. The six information industry bases are the Northern base Microelectronic Industry, Beijing Software Industry Base, Jiuxianqiao and Yi Zhang Electronic and Telecommunication Base, computer and network products base, digital television with high clarity and the technology base of liquid crystal display.

Ⅱ. The City Informatization spurred by the E-Government Service is One of the Basic Policies to Advance the Capital’s Informatization Drive

The e-Government service is an important part of “digital Beijing”. We need to speed up the implementation of the project of e-Government in order to take the lead in our nation to achieve informatization of administrative affairs. This is not only an urgent demand of the economy and social development of the capital but also a pressing task to change
government working styles in raising working efficiency or rendering a better service for the citizens while having a good management and construction of this metropolitan city, Beijing.

The government modernization should herald the city modernization. However, the modernization of administrative management must depend on informatization. We should use the method of informatization to upgrade the traditional way of administration to realize “e-government” so that we can meet the needs of the informatized society and to adapt ourselves to the development of the information technology. To realize informatization in the field of administrative affairs first will greatly speed up the development of informatization of the national economy and social development, which can serve as an engine for city informatization.

In the course of the Tenth Five-Year Plan, the informatization of administrative affairs in Beijing will persist in the principles “of having an overall planning and unified standard to coordinate the different sectors, while developing through integration and to share all resources and connect with one another.” The modern IT will be adopted in all fields and links, with network as its base, the application of technology as its focal point, exploration and utilization of information resources as its core. Thus it will promote the change of the government role in administration and making the administrative affairs more transparent, while helping improve the efficiency and service level and lay a foundation for the modernization of administrative affairs. And we have the following targets in mind: by the end of 2002, we spend two years’ time to carry out tasks of examination, approval, management and online access service concerning both enterprises and citizens. On this basis, we will use another three years, till the end of the year 2005, finish the establishment of a systematic, well-structured electronic administration network with high speed and broad band. We will also finish establishing the information database to be shared among the administrative affairs system and begin interactively handling public affairs across the board.

To realize the overall fixed goal ahead of schedule, Beijing has sped up its
e-Government project in the following aspects:

1. Make good planning of e-Government. Since the informatization of administrative affairs is characterized with much operationability, it involves a great many units and institutions with high starting points. Therefore we need to first have an overall planning. Only in this way can we achieve the purpose of being both cost-effective and achieving results quickly. And the quality of the planning has a direct link with the process and quality of e-Government project.

2. Carry out the overall planning plus division of labor with individual responsibility system. This system is a new working mode in the informatization drive of Beijing, which will combine the international informatization practice and its management method with the reality of Beijing. And it has the following features: the general planning by the municipal government, the implementation by the districts and counties or departments, and professional, market and enterprises oriented. The general planning refers to the unified planning of informatization of the whole city by the municipal government, making unified standard, relevant policies and regulations and management methods, while making the allocation of funds for some major information project. The division of labor with individual responsibility refers to the implementation of the specific project by every districts and counties or departments according to the unified standard and planning through the professional, market-oriented operation by authorized enterprises that can also participate in the construction, operation, management and financing process.

3. Reform the modes of government management and to optimize the working process. This is the premise and basis of the realization of the e-Government Sevice . To implement e-Government project is not a simple process of putting all the business, working procedure into the computer without a single change. It should be, instead, a innovation of the traditional style and means of our work.
4. Integrate all information resources energetically by building and updating a batch of administrative database. This is both a crux and a difficult point of the e-Government project. We must break down the monopoly and sealing of information by every departments, integrate administrative informatization resources and help making transparent the government information resources so that it will create bigger social and economical effects. The database we will building and update will include resources, economy, science and technology education, spatial basic information, social security and municipal planning, etc. Attention will be paid to the development, renewal and maintenance of the databases. Now Beijing has set up an information resource management center for better management, integration, sharing and utilization of city information resources.

5. Continue to perfect the public information platform of the capital and to speed up the broad-band administration affairs network system. The public information platform is an important part of informatization infrastructure of our city, which integrates the networks of telecommunication, broadcasting and television, and computer, connecting with all the information system for all enterprises and institutions. while it is a large data exchanging center and a platform for all enterprise and individuals to deal with their relevant business. From now on, we will rely on this platform to speed up the construction of the broad band and high speed administrative network system connecting all districts within the city and counties and government departments. Thus all the administrative work concerning enterprises and public administration will be carried out in the special network platform of administrative affairs.

6. Speed up the construction of a batch of key informatization application projects to help making government work transparent and increase efficiency. First of all, we will continue to construct and improve the Window of the Capital, to lay stress on its function in dealing administrative affairs and to push forward the online examination and approval system, which will make it a window, true to its name, where all
levels of government offices and other administrative departments of the city can make the administrative affairs more transparent to public and serve the people efficiently. Then, we will speed up the automation and paperless business in the office. At the same time, we will speed up the informatization for special purposes. In these two years, for example, we will focus on carrying out some transregional and transdepartmental informatization application projects that have a lot to do with national economy and people’s livelihood, the city management and social stability, for example: the information systems of electronic administration of the spatial information, digital greenbelt, social security, social community network, the city supervisory control and assistant policy making, the emergency command, etc.

7. Reinforce the construction of soft environment of government informatization. More attention will be paid to the standardization of informatization, information security, relevant publicity and training or education,. We should also collect more funds through various channels and invest more money into the drive of e-Government. And we should speed up in legislative efforts concerning laws on informatization and be strict in enacting them. Besides, the leadership should be rigorous in supervising the fulfillment of the tasks concerning the e-Government Service.

What beautiful prospect the blueprint of the Tenth Five-Year Plan is, but the task remains tough. We firmly believe that to spur industrialization and modernization through informatization are important strategies of city informatization and that to spur modernization of administrative management and the informatization of economy and social development through the e-Government Service is the basic policy of city informatization. Let’s work together for the great cause of city informatization!