

第一届亚太地区城市信息化论坛
The 1st Forum on City Informatization in the Asia Pacific Region

Promoting City Informatization for Social and Economic Development

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Distinguished Guests from the United Nations,

Honorable Majors from cities in the Asian-Pacific Region

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Since the 90s, the information technology has been developing at a high speed unprecedented in human history. The application of information technology has permeated into every economic section and social life, and it has been greatly stimulating social productivity, and tremendously changing the working style and life taste of the people. Informatization has become a new impetus, boosting the growth of economy, increasing the rate of employment and decreasing inflation. Human beings are proceeding into a new economic era.

At this critical moment of social transformation, Governments in all countries have paid serious attention to informatization. With ideas of informatization in accordance with particular circumstances of one's nation, they set the advancement of informatization as a national strategy for economic development. The population of Asia-Pacific Region accounts for over 60% of the global population, and 60% of the cities with a population of more than 10 million residents in the world, are located in the Asia-Pacific Region. Therefore, the economic development and social

advancement of the Asia-Pacific Region cities are significant to the global economy. Today, we are gathering in Shanghai at this Forum for the purposes of

- (1) Exchanging our experiences in city informatization in the region;
- (2) Discussing strategies of how to boost the economic development and social advancement by promoting city informatization; and
- (3) Examining how to enhance coordination and cooperation among countries in informatization development.
- (4) Discussing and adopting “Shanghai Declaration—High-Level Forum on City Informatization in the Asia-Pacific Region” and “Statue of the Regional Cooperation Committee of the High-level Forum on City Informatization in the Asia-Pacific Region”.

I think the pioneering work of holding the city informatization forum will definitely promote the economic development and social advancement and exert positive influence on the whole world.

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce the informatization in China.

1. The Basic Situation of Promoting Informatization in China

The informatization development in China has always been highly emphasized by the Government. In 1991, President Jiang Zemin clearly pointed out, “None of the Four Modernizations can be achieved without informatization.” Under the great support of the government, satisfactory results have been achieved in China’s informatization development, which mainly goes through the following phases:

In December 1993, the National Economic Informatization Council was established. Chaired by the Vice Premier of the State Council, this organization aimed at reinforcing unified leadership, and

pushing forward the guideline of “Implement the informatization project to drive the development of industry”. The leaders of the Central Committee of Chinese Communist Party and the State Council of PRC raised the task of national informatization development. The symbolic projects of informatization—the Golden Card, the Golden Bridge and the Golden Customs engineering, etc. were initiated, signifying the start of national economic informatization.

In January 1996, the State Council Informatization Leading Group was founded, chaired by the Vice Premier of the State Council and consisting of over 20 ministers and commissions. Its fundamental task is to exert unified leadership, organize and coordinate the informatization drive and engage the nationwide informatization work onto the track in an organized and planned way. In this phase, the definition of “China National Informatization” and the “National Informatization System” were established; the guideline and principle of national informatization development were further clarified; the national informatization development program and a series of policies promoting informatization were set down; a number of key informatization projects in nation level gained substantial progress. It was an outcome that Government at different levels recognized the important role of informatization in national economy and social development, and a strong trend of informatization swept over the country in almost all areas and districts.

In April 1997, the National Informatization Working Conference was held, it fully deployed the guideline of “Guided by the nation, making overall planing; unifying the standard; strengthening connection with resource sharing and building the system through combined efforts”. In that period, the general idea of the development of national informatization was set down, and the goals and main tasks were sequentially defined. Later, informatization leading groups chaired by major leaders were founded in the majority of provinces and municipalities. All provinces and cities intended to

promote the integration of informatization and the revival of local economy as one of their basic strategies of prosperity. The national informatization efforts shifted gradually from dealing with urgent problems of common interest to serving the long-term economic development and social advancement, thus entering an organized and planned way of development conformable to the market rules.

In March 1998, the Ministry of Information Industry was established according to the Restructuring and Reforming Plan submitted by State Council and approved by the Ninth People's Conference. The Ministry is responsible to all functions of the former State Council Informatization Leading Group.

In December 1999, for the purpose of strengthening the leadership in the national informatization, the State Council decided to set up the National Informatization Leading Group chaired by Vice President Wu Bang-Guo, and the National Informatization Promotion Office was also established.

We have learned from the practice of China's promoting her informatization that: the informatization of China should be carried out under the leadership of the Government with the government-guided policies. An informatization program must be set down in accordance with China's situation to display the overall advantages; the informatization of China must proceed in its own way, i.e. the way integrating both of the industrialization and informatization. Emphasis should be laid on the hotspots and difficult points of current national economy development to promote the two fundamental changes of the national economy: "from a planned economy to a market economy" and "from an 'extensive' economy to an 'intensive' economy". Finally, the industry structure should be adjusted to push forward the national economy onto the track of fast, healthy and sustainable development. The processes of informatization in China should promote the advancement of her

information industries, especially in IC, computer, communications and software industry. The informatization of China must be accommodating to the general trend of the economic globalization and enhancing international cooperation and communication. We shall set up our general goal for the advancement of national economy and the informatization of social services, then to promote the construction of information infrastructure and the information industry by focusing on the informatization application and information services.

2. City Informatization is an important component of National Informatization

The general principle of promoting the national informatization of China is: to achieve the inter-industry informatization, to promote the local informatization connected by central cities, to drive the business informatization centered around E-commerce. The city informatization of China shall both comply with the objective law of informatization, and comply with China's situation. At present, the city informatization of China shall put special emphasis on perfecting the functions of the city services through informatization to raise the quality of city services, to improve citizen's life and to embellish the city environment.

Under the unified planning, extensively utilizing and exploiting information resources, the city informatization should perform by applying modern information technology to all related social branches, including industry, economy, culture and society,. Simultaneously, it may also speed up the process of realizing city modernization. Being the center of sector informatization, the city informatization can effectively bring forward the informatization and socio-economic development in surrounding regions. The city informatization shall provide environmental support for the local development of sector informatization and business informatization.

The deployment of city informatization shall integrate closely with the actual situation of different

cities, as each city has her own characteristics. For example,

- (1) Beijing, with the proposal of “promoting city modernization with city informatization”, is deploying the “Digital Beijing” project, which is being forcefully promoted at the experimental zone of Zhong Guan Village;
- (2) Tianjing, which lays special emphasis on the coordination between city informatization and the development of surrounding regions, has joined efforts with Beijing;
- (3) Dalian and Qingdao aim to develop the informatization of the Bohai bay area;
- (4) Guangzhou has fully demonstrated its geographical advantage at Zhu River Delta and initiated the reform of informatization system and mechanism;
- (5) Shenzhen has paid special attention to driving the fast development of the information industry with informatization, and in 1999 its production value of information industry occupied over 53% of the total production value.
- (6) Shanghai, in particular, firstly raised the concept of “infor-port” and “city informatization” in the country, and gradually clarified and detailed its content and extension. Having been granted by the relevant national agency, Shanghai is deploying several informatization trial model projects, including IP broadband network, E-commerce, social security card, one-card transportation, financial card network and city informatization index system, all of which have gained considerable progress and practical effect.

Having entered a prosperous stage, the city informatization development in China has become an important factor and indispensable component in the process of our informatization. It has set up a good example and laid a solid foundation for the national project of promoting informatization. We

firmly believe that the deployment of city informatization in economically advanced cities will certainly speed up the process of informatization both at national and local level.

3. Basic Tasks of China's City Informatization

a. Set up a city informatization program

Our Government has decided to set "national economic informatization" as one of the national special programs in the tenth "five-year plan" of China. At present, the city informatization program is conformable to national informatization and socio-economic development of cities. What shall we emphasize in the general program of city informatization, including the top-level design, the overall layout, the focus of development, and the reasonable collocation of resources? Practical policies, regulations, standards and specific fulfillment plan and measures should be worked out accordingly.

b. Promoting the exploitation of information resources

At present, China has been constituting the program of information resource exploitation and relevant rules and standards resource management. Its objective is defined as follows:

- (1) Enhancing the management work in information resources exploitation;
- (2) Rectifying the behavior in information services markets;
- (3) Facilitating information sharing.

In the meantime, by actively promoting the model projects, establishing several national data exchange service centers, and setting up state-level large databases, the basic resources supporting the Government decision-making and social services can be preserved. It is encouraged to use the information resource extensively in different fields including economy, science and technology, education, culture and sanitation, expedite the transformation of information resources into

productivity, to strengthen the development of information resources in Chinese, and encourage the application of network services.

Local governments shall set the above mentioned Program as the guideline and regard the market demand as the motivation. In accordance with the local requirements and integrated with application system projects, we have to develop and utilize the information resources in a whole-rounded approach.

c. Consummating the information network infrastructure

The information network is the infrastructure of city informatization. Being the prerequisite for implementing the informatization drive, a digital and interconnected environment of a considerable scope with reasonable structure and high-speed broadband connectivity is needed. Besides, the network is accommodating to the unified plan of the nation and the actual situation of the socio-economy development of cities. The existing information network resources such as telecommunication networks, appropriate networks, broadcasting and TV networks and the Internet must be fully utilized. With the adoption of new technologies, and the cable layout optimization and the completeness of network structure, it seems possible to promote the integration of the “three networks” (TV, Internet and digital communication).

d. Promoting E-commerce

The development of E-commerce is an important component of the development of national economic informatization. The current emphasis lies in the development of inter-business E-commerce, especially the E-commerce inside a business and a chain of supply. At the same time, E-commerce between businesses and consumers, between consumers should also be steadily developed.

We hope that the countries in the Asia-Pacific Region could collaborate with each other. Centralizing on the projects of overall framework, authentication system, laws and regulations, criteria and standards, personnel training program etc., we may create a favorable environment for the development of E-commerce in the Asia-Pacific Region.

5. Starting informatization in public sectors

In order to urge and keep fast, healthy and sustainable development of the society, the informatization drive in public sectors including population management, environment protection, science, technology and education, medical care, social security and community services are being promoted, which will result in the improvement of the comprehensive quality and living standard of people. Meanwhile, the family informatization is the next item to be dealt with. Generally, once the favorable information services are provided for the public, the consumer market of information service will be explored and the city informatization will be rooted deeply in people's daily life and daily working environment.

6. Promoting Government informatization

For the purpose of establishing an information society, the Government should expand its input in three aspects—policies and regulations; education and training, and infrastructure to provide a good informatized environment. In the process of city informatization, the Government informatization shall function as the leader and model. City administration should adapt itself to the demand of internationalization and network, and satisfy the requirement of international competitive environment of economic globalization; thus the efficiency and ability of instant response of the Government can be essentially improved. By advancing Government informatization, promoting the exploitation of Government information resources, and realizing the information sharing and opening

Government affairs on line of Government sectors, more convenient, expeditious and equitable services can be offered to all sections of the society.

7. Speeding up business informatization

Business informatization means using the modern information technology to continuously improve the efficiency and standard of business production, administration, management and decision-making through the extensive development and exploitation of information resources. Business informatization is the foundation for deploying E-commerce, the emphasis of national informatization, and the focus of city informatization. We shall actively promote the informatization in business including manufacturing, circulation, finance and transportation.

8. Strengthening the awareness of informatization and the training of personnel

Informatization is a new thing, which often causes hysteresis in human recognition. Therefore, publicity and initiation is an indispensable link. It has proved that the regions where publicity and initiation has been well accomplished are gaining propitious development of informatization. Thus, we should take full advantage of all channels and media to expand the efforts of social publicity in informatization, popularize the knowledge of informatization, enhance the awareness of informatization of all citizens, and improve people's ability to provide and use information, making people understand, support and participate in informatization to a higher degree.

We shall take full advantage of various ways and methods, such as school education, reeducation and social education, and adopt effective measures and policies to form an education system of information science and technology with different levels, well-established subjects and reasonable structure, and foster multi-subject and multi-layer informatized talents adapted to the development of informatization. We shall also pay attention to the cultivation of multiplex talents versed in both

information technology and business. Effective measures shall be taken and good environment shall be created to attract excellent talents of information technology home and abroad. The education of computer and network knowledge in middle and elementary schools need to be improved, so as to familiarize the students with a digital and network environment from their childhood.

9. Enhancing the security of information and network

With the ceaseless development of informatization, the information security and network security are receiving increasing attention. The Chinese Government regards the information security and network security as the important guarantee of the informatization development, and keeps on doing research on the security system, security countermeasure, security technology and security equipment and developing security products with independent property right. In order to enhance the information security and network security, infrastructures relevant to information security are set up, such as China National Network Information Center, National Information Security Assessment and Attestation Center, National Computer Network and Information Security Management Center.

The marketization and globalization of Internet speeds up the advent of the information era. The quick development of E-commerce based on Internet, in particular, has started a revolution represented by the trade and circulating sector and facilitated tremendous changes in the society and economy, which is changing people's traditional way of working, studying, living and entertainment.

During this special period of transition of the old and new centuries, the economic and social development of the Asia-Pacific Region is facing new challenges and opportunities. The Chinese Government is willing to promote communication and conduct cooperation with all countries and regions. It aims to promote the informatization process of the Asia-Pacific Region, to achieve greater contribution to the economic development and social advancement of the Asia-Pacific Region and of

the whole world.

I wish a complete success of this Forum! Hope all guests would be in perfect health during your stay in China!

Thank you!