

ICT Industry in Hong Kong

Key Facts

- Hong Kong's spending on information technology (IT) exceeded HK\$24 billion in 2000 and was among the highest in Asia on a per capita basis. (IDC, June 2001)
- Around 2.3 million personal computers are installed in Hong Kong.
- There are 61 356 people directly employed in the IT services industry.
- Most local software developers are small firms with less than 20 employees, and are thus highly flexible and responsive to customer needs. Their strength lies in producing competitive customised software, particularly in the financial sector. Demand has led to the development of world class brokerage and commercial banking packages.

Favourable Factors

Hong Kong was the world's first city to fully digitise its telecommunications networks.

Hong Kong has an IT-savvy population, familiar with, and willing to use and add value to IT products.

Hong Kong was an early innovator in the government-business adoption of Electronic Data Interchange.

Hong Kong is developing a Cyberport, a hi-tech, IT and multimedia hub, costing US\$2 billion, to attract the research and development teams of major hi-tech suppliers in IT applications, information services and multi-media content creation. Phase I of the Cyberport's occupancy rate is reaching 80% with big names including Microsoft, GE Information Services, Sonera, Sybase and PCCW being the major tenants to sign on.

The idea is to create a strategic cluster of leading IT companies and a critical mass of professional talent in Hong Kong. There is no limit on applications. The concept advocates the development of advanced IT for services and multimedia content for any and all businesses and industries ranging from finance, through trading, advertising and entertainment, to communications.

The Cyberport will not be just a workplace. It incorporates a world class living and working environment so as to provide an ideal place for overseas companies to set up their regional base and also a niche position for promising local companies. The surroundings will be conducive to creative thinking.

The Cyberport will offer shared facilities and services on one campus including:

- world class telecommunications and information infrastructure with broadband global connectivity

- a wide range of shared facilities and services for use by tenants on a need to use basis
- content centre
- cyber library
- multimedia laboratory
- demonstration facilities
- exhibition and trade show facilities
- office and commercial support services and facilities
- Cyber Centre to provide a hi-technology, fun and educational interface with the public
- interface with universities and research institutions, both locally and internationally
networks with venture capitalists and angel investors
- continuous upgrades to ensure state-of-the-art facilities