



Living with Innovative Technologies

“Innovative technology” (IT) and “smart city” have become buzzwords in Hong Kong. This survey asks young people how well they understand the concepts. A large number of strategies and measures to aid Hong Kong’s development as a smart city were included in the government’s “Hong Kong Smart City Blueprint.” How widely are they being applied in daily life?

Key points from respondents

- 87.7% say getting citizens' full cooperation is essential for Hong Kong to become a smart city.
- 72.9% have not heard of the “Hong Kong Smart City Blueprint”.
- 53.7% know nothing about multi-functional smart lampposts.
- 30.2% say they don't need IT.
- 22.9% say it's too costly.
- 16.9% worry about personal data privacy.

Among those who do use IT:

- » 92.3% use it for convenience.
- » 86.5% think smart city development could improve quality of life.
- » 72.1% believe smart city features would increase competitiveness.
- » 70.0% say adoption of smart city features means wide application of IT in daily life.



Eight multi-functional smart lampposts were installed in Hong Kong Science Park in early 2018 as part of a pilot scheme due to be rolled out in Kowloon East before mid-2019. The lampposts have LED lights that reduce power consumption, charging for electric vehicles and software with surveillance cameras to collect real-time data about the weather, pollution, traffic and pedestrians and security. They are already used in mainland China and elsewhere with facial recognition software for law enforcement.

Comments from Youth I.D.E.A.S. think tank members

Mac Chan, deputy convener “Education is the key to improving young people’s understanding and willingness to adopt IT, especially STEM education which should be available not only in schools. The government could also support NGOs that organize cross-border IT events such as STEM study tours and internship programmes. These can stimulate creativity and enable an innovative atmosphere to flourish.”

Alison Chan & Gigi Au-yeung, group members “Our fellow-citizens’ full support of government strategies is the foundation of success for Hong Kong as a smart city. We recommend a regular government survey which explores technological needs and expectations to motivate people to adopt IT as part of a collective effort.”

Key points from individual interviews

- Young people’s understanding of IT is unclear. Some believe the term means “R&D” or “high-tech.” Others think it means technologies not yet adopted 100% in Hong Kong.
- Limited understanding of the smart city concept is evident. One interviewee said she thought it meant a research project at Hong Kong Science Park, implying that it had no direct relevance to her own life.
- The major challenges for IT adoption according to experts and scholars are lack of proper government strategies, outdated legislation and slow progress in collecting government data.

Read more

www.smartcity.gov.hk/
info.gov.hk/gia/general/201804/25/P2018042500334.htm
iotworldtoday.com/2016/04/22/why-iot-coming-street-lights/

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Respondents 520 15-34 year-olds via an onsite poll survey plus in-depth interviews with 20 youth and five scholars or experts

More details [in Chinese] yrc.hkfyg.org.hk/2018/09/26/yi034/

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