



共享經濟聯盟  
SHARING ECONOMY ALLIANCE

Press release  
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## Hong Kong lags behind competing cities in innovation and technology developments

(Hong Kong, 4 September 2017) - Since its establishment in 2015, there has been questions about the roles and functions of The Innovation and Technology Bureau (ITB). To better comprehend the public expectation of the newly established policy bureau, the Sharing Economy Alliance commissioned The Hong Kong University Public Opinion Program to conduct an opinion survey regarding innovation and technology adaptation in Hong Kong.

The opinion survey collected feedbacks from 636 respondents, who are Hong Kong residents aged 18 or above.

### Hong Kong lags behind in innovation and technology development

The opinion survey asked the respondent to rate five competing cities, namely Taipei, Shenzhen, Seoul, Singapore, and Hong Kong, in terms of development of innovation and technology. Hong Kong scores the lowest, with an average rating of 1.9. Seoul and Singapore have the highest rating of 3.8.

Mr Frank Lee, the Hong Kong University Public Opinion Poll Program, says “*the respondents consider Hong Kong lags behind in the development of innovation and technology.*”

### The Government should be open mind towards the Sharing Economy model

Over 60% of the respondents agree that Sharing Economy can help Hong Kong to be more competitive and close to 74% of the respondents agree that Sharing Economy can release the economic value of idle resources by optimizing their uses.

Meanwhile, 70% of the respondents believe that the Hong Kong Government is being too protective to the vested interests; and 73% of the respondents think that compared to other competing cities, Hong Kong Government is less open to the idea of Sharing Economy.

### More than half of the respondents disapprove the ITB's performance

More than 60% of the respondents are not satisfied with the ITB's lack of effort in coordinating different policy bureaux and relevant stakeholders; more than 68% of the respondents are not satisfied with the ITB's effort in facilitating the communication and cooperation amongst different stakeholders. Meanwhile, close to 50% of the respondents are not satisfied with the resources and support provided by the ITB.



## Majority of the respondents see ITB's role and responsibility in leading the adaptation of innovative technology and revision of outdated policies

93% of the respondent thinks that the Government is responsible for revising outdated policy and 92% of the respondents think that the government should take the lead in the adaptation of innovative products and services.

86% of the respondents agree that when there is a consensus the Government should amend the law to allow the public to legally take part in innovative economic activities.

75% of the respondents believe it is the Government's responsibility to provide assistance to Sharing Economy businesses on regulatory questions and to coordinate between different policy bureaux on designing the most appropriate policy solutions.

## Establish a "Task Force on Sharing Economy" to facilitate fair and balanced engagement on policy change

In response to the opinion survey, the Convenor of The Sharing Economy Alliance, Simon Lee says,

*"We understand that any change in the existing policy will inevitably create pressure from the vested interests. We therefore urge the Government to stay open, and facilitate a fair and balanced engagement so the public can have an informed debate on the virtues and concerns."*

*"We are not asking the Government to play favouritism to any type of business model, or innovate for the sake of innovation. We believe in competition and we believe the consumers' welfare should always come first. There are social challenges which requires a concerted efforts of both the private and public sector to provide viable solutions."*

The Sharing Economy Alliance hence proposes:

1. The Government should establish a "Task Force on Sharing Economy" to facilitate and engage stakeholders to debate on respective issues and policies, and ultimately build a consensus on the blueprint for appropriate policy adaptations.
2. Law enforcement agencies should take into consideration consumer's rights and welfare in deciding their law enforcement activities.
3. Reference the best practices from other jurisdictions on policy designs and adaptations.

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