



Ms. Janet Wong Wing-chen, JP

Commissioner for Innovation and Technology
Innovation and Technology Commission
HKSAR Government

Ms. Janet Wong assumed her present post as the Commissioner for Innovation and Technology in September 2009 responsible for the formulation and implementation of policies pertaining to innovation and technology, a new pillar industry in Hong Kong.

Ms. Wong joined the Civil Service as an Administrative Officer in 1980. Over the years, she has served in various bureaux and departments, including the Independent Commission Against Corruption, Food and Environmental Hygiene Department, Education and Manpower Bureau and Home Affairs Department. In 2004, Ms. Wong was appointed to be the Head of the World Trade Organisation Sixth Ministerial Conference Coordination Office. In 2006 she took up the post of Deputy Secretary (Works) in the former Environment, Transport and Works Bureau which became the Development Bureau upon the re-organisation of the Government Secretariat in July 2007. She was then responsible for the Government's Capital Works Programme and heritage matters.

Technology and Elderly – Embracing Technology to Improve Life of the Elderly

The Innovation and Technology Fund (ITF) supports applied research and development projects that help upgrade technology and promote innovation in the manufacturing and service industries. In 2012, the funding scope was also extended to cover production of prototypes/samples and conduct trial schemes in the public sector (including government departments, public bodies and trade associations) for all ITF-funded projects.

Hong Kong will enter into a phase of accelerated population ageing in the next decade. The proportion of population aged 65 and over has increased from 10% in 1995 to 13% in 2009, and will further increase to 17% and 27% in 2019 and 2034 respectively. We shall face a severe challenge of an ageing population.

As such, ITC has paid high attention to this issue and co-operated with various organizations. We aim to explore ways to promote the use of innovation and technology in improving the life quality of the elderly including health monitoring and safety, entertainment and communication, enhancement, etc. For instance, we have, with the funding support by ITF, initiated the “iHome” project in the Elderly Research Centre of Hong Kong Housing Society (HKHS) in Yau Ma Tei. This is a joint project carried out by the Hong Kong Polytechnic University and the Hong Kong Applied Science and Technology Research Institute. There are emerging technologies being demonstrated in the iHome, including telecare system, wireless pulse oximeter, telehealth hub, environmental control system, and mobile and wearable sensors.

In future, to have better synergy, we will continuously co-ordinate with various partners in Hong Kong to explore collaboration opportunities with stakeholders to implement meaningful projects for the adoption of innovation and technology for elderly care.