

'Developing Public Policies for Re-use of Government Information: Starting the Public Discourse in Hong Kong'

Waltraut Ritter

The OECD recommendation on “Enhanced Access and More Effective Use of Public Information” has wide-ranging implications for member states, but is also relevant for the information policies in highly developed non-member states. In this paper, the current status of PSI policies and activities in Hong Kong will be discussed.

In Hong Kong, the government has a comprehensive information strategy relating to information infrastructure (Digital21 Strategy), which was first documented in 1998. This blueprint for Hong Kong’s ICT development is updated on a regular basis to account for technological and socio-economic changes, however, PSI is not (yet) part of the strategy. Many countries still focus too much on the technical infrastructure and less on the content, usage and economic value that can be created from re-use of government based on an advanced information infrastructure. Since the policy-making process in Hong Kong is at an early stage, the paper will also address the policy-making challenges drawing on experiences of countries that already have PSI policies in place.