

# **Evolutionary Process of the Development of Spatial Data Infrastructure (SDI) in Hong Kong**

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## **SUMMARY**

Spatial Data Infrastructure (SDI) is primarily a mega-project at national scale. It involves top-level developmental and administrative policy. It also resides on legal and institutional structures. It nurtures database production and communication. No matter in what scale, all nations are moving towards SDI as it is not just a vogue on national development. The Hong Kong government also recognise that SDI is a collection of technologies, policies and institutional arrangements that facilitates the accessibility and availability of spatial data. However, the existing Geospatial Information hub (GIH) and Data Alignment Measures Projects, which are considered a miniature version of SDI, seems still not holistic enough. Top directive and policy support on SDI are required to induce the collaborative initiative in creating/sustaining an environment where the spatial data, policies and technologies are not integrated to foster innovation, knowledge and value creation. The synergy among the three major components in the society, (i) government, (ii) enterprises and (iii) community can then be created for the economical development. If Hong Kong asserts as an information society, SDI is to be taken up with highest political priority. A benchmark study on the current achievements of the major SDI, e.g. INSPIRE and DCGF, shall give directions on Hong Kong's SDI development path. The paper thus illustrate the study on the development of SDI based on the assumption that GIH is the future SDI in Hong Kong. It involves the policy, legal and institutional issues, e.g. complexity, standards and guidance related to data licencing, copy-right issues, liability or misuse of published data, data quality and data custodianship issues, etc. As a mean to commence the further study, the standard and database problems are touched as well. The GIH supports ready access to geographic information. To strengthen the GIH model, sound project governance and a clear transition plan to move from temporary project governance to operational governance in a multi agency context is a major governance challenge. Addressing the concerns of data custodians will assist in removing barriers to publication. Barriers must be identified and solutions proposed. The study on legal concerns (such as licencing and liability) and the role of key agencies including lead agency, custodial, coordinator, and operator of the infrastructure, should be made understood. Using semi-structured Interviews with stakeholders involved in the case study initiatives and informants from government agencies and the private sectors, the conceptualization, function, scope, mechanisms, and challenges of SDI governance are explored in this paper.

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