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MOBILE PHONES: MODERNITY ON NEW CIVILIZATION

Since the advent of mobile phones in 1980s, mobile phones have gradually evolved from a bare voice communication tool to an all-in-one virtual platform embedded with a number of functions and activities, either personal or business, ranging from text communications, video calls, social networking, dating, infotainment, internet surfing, personal affairs organizer, business emails, payment gateway, location tracking, fashion and watch to perhaps a defensive weapon one day.

Mobile phones also have implications on the economic side. For example, mobile phones may become another Octopus card equipped with the facility to spend stored-value token money for daily shopping. According to the World Bank, the rise of “app economy” will improve global wealth poverty. Meanwhile, the abandoned used handset batteries are becoming an environmental concern thereby incurring social costs.

It is therefore right time for us to critically consider to what extent our lives have been “empowered” or “enslaved” by mobile phones. What if our new human civilization for the next decades is to be dominated by mobile phones? Such proposition will give rise to intellectual deliberations and debates. It is hoped that the discussions participated by our Partner Mr. Maurice Lee in the recent RTHK radio program (5th March 2013) can act as the prologue for this cultural topic and arouse your interest. Please click the hyperlink and listen to the contents.

http://programme.rthk.org.hk/channel/radio/player_popup.php?pid=3173&eid=209797&d=2013-03-05&player=media&type=archive&channel=radio1

手機文明變成人類文化

自從流動電話在 80 年代面世後，流動電話已經由單一話音通話工具進化為多功能的綜合虛擬平台，給用家處理個人或生意上需要，例如收發短訊、視頻電話、社交網絡、約會、娛樂資訊、上網、私務處理、收發商業電郵、付款平台、定位追蹤、飾物、手錶、甚至可能有一天變成自衛武器。

流動電話亦對人類經濟構成影响。流動電話或會是另一張八達通咭，方便我們使用儲值電子代幣購物。而世界銀行亦指出，“apps”的出現會改善人類貧窮線。另一方面，被棄置的手機鋰電池亦會產生環境污染，對整個社會帶來代價。

流動電話究竟是造福人類抑或是蠶食我們的生活素質？同時我們如何反思倘若人類的文明在住後的數十年仍然被流動電話支配的話，後果會怎麼樣？這個哲理性問題引起理性分析及探討。希望本所的李偉民律師在最近(2013年3月5日)香港電台《講東講西》節目參予的討論能夠引起更多迴響。有興趣的話，請按以下連結收聽內容。

http://programme.rthk.org.hk/channel/radio/player_popup.php?pid=3173&eid=209797&d=2013-03-05&player=media&type=archive&channel=radio1

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