

Issue 41 (3/2013)

## 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 (5<sup>th</sup> 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](http://programme.rthk.org.hk/channel/radio/player_popup.php?pid=3173&eid=209797&d=2013-03-05&player=media&type=archive&channel=radio1)

# 手机文明变成人类文化

自从流动电话在 80 年代面世后，流动电话已经由单一话音通话工具进化为多功能的综合虚拟平台，给用家处理个人或生意上需要，例如收发短讯、视频电话、社交网络、约会、娱乐信息、上网、私务处理、收发商业电邮、付款平台、定位追踪、饰物、手表、甚至可能有一天变成自卫武器。

流动电话亦对人类经济构成影响。流动电话或会是另一张八达通咭，方便我们使用储值电子代币购物。而世界银行亦指出，“apps” 的出现会改善人类贫穷线。另一方面，被弃置的手机锂电池亦会产生环境污染，对整个社会带来代价。

流动电话究竟是造福人类抑或是蚕食我们的生活素质？同时我们如何反思倘若人类的文明在住后的数十年仍然被流动电话支配的话，后果会怎么样？这个哲理性问题引起理性分析及探讨。希望本所的李伟民律师在最近(2013 年 3 月 5 日)香港电台《讲东讲西》节目参予的讨论能够引起更多迴响。有兴趣的话，请按以下连结收听内容。

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