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Press Release

LSCM Logistics Summit 2013

Innovative technologies Break New Grounds and Bring Best Possible Results

(Hong Kong, 24 September 2013) Trading & Logistics Industry has long been one of the four pillar industries in Hong Kong. However, this traditional industry has been facing severe challenges and competitions from neighbouring regions. In order to upkeep its competitive edge, the Logistics Industry has to develop into “Intelligent-based model”. Information technologies are widely adopted to enhance efficiency in different levels to achieve the best possible results.

Research Achievements showcased in the Summit

The Hong Kong R&D Centre for Logistics and Supply Chain Management Enabling Technologies (LSCM R&D Centre) has hosted the “LSCM Logistics Summit 2013” at Charles K. Kao Auditorium and Conference Hall, Hong Kong Science Park on 24 September to facilitate collaboration between government departments, industry players and technology companies, academia and researchers, and showcase the latest research achievements and innovative technologies of the LSCM R&D Centre. A series of keynote speeches were delivered during the Summit. Among those who have attended the Summit were **Miss Janet WONG**, JP, Commissioner for Innovation and Technology, HKSAR Government; **Mr Jonathan Lim**, Commercial Director, GE Transportation - NE & SE Asia; **Mr John CHAI**, Executive Director, Projects, Airport Authority Hong Kong; **Mr LEE Shing See**, GBS, OBE, JP, Chairman, Construction Industry Council; **The Hon Frankie YICK**, Legislative Councillor (Transport), HKSAR; **The Hon Charles MOK**, Legislative Councillor (Information Technology), HKSAR; **Mr Tommy LUI**, Chairman of Board of Directors, LSCM R&D Centre and **Mr Simon WONG**, Chief Executive Officer, LSCM R&D Centre etc.

Confronted with limited land supply, Trading and Logistics Industry has to look to advanced technology to reduce operation time and improve every detail in operation. As a result, production and operation procedures become more efficient.

RFID Technology Reaches Maturity

Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) technology is one of the key research areas for the LSCM R&D Centre. RFID technology uses radio-frequency electromagnetic fields to transfer data from a tag attached to an object for the purpose of automatic identification and tracking. Compared with traditional barcode, mini-size RFID chips can store much more information. Also, with radio waves, RFID readers can read the chip in a distance and from different angles. The correct read rate is even high as 99.9%.

With the growing maturity of RFID technology, the LSCM R&D Centre does not only provide new technology for Logistics and Supply Chain Industries, it also provides advanced enabling technologies for the Construction, Tourism, Retail and Health Care Industries.

Enhance Airport Cargo Management

Despite the continuous challenges coming from the global economic environment, Hong Kong International Airport (HKIA) has been experiencing phenomenal growth in air traffic. In 2012, the annual passenger traffic reached 56.5 million and flight movements at 352,000, representing 4.7% and 5.3% annual increase respectively. Air cargo throughput reached 4.02 million tonnes, making HKIA the world's busiest cargo airport for the third consecutive year.

To tackle heavy cargo throughput, cargo management becomes more important than ever. "We have developed E-Lock and Advanced Arrival Info Infrastructure. The former has been adopted by Hong Kong Customs and Excises Department" said Tommy Lui, Chairman of Board of Directors, LSCM R&D Centre. "For trucks with E-Lock, clearance at customs takes only a few minutes. Inspection time has been greatly reduced. For Advanced Arrival Info Infrastructure, the reader located at certain locations at Tsing Ma Highway will detect the trucks embedded with RFID. The information will be sent to the cargo terminal for advanced arrangement, speeding up the operation procedures.

Benefits All

As major infrastructures are under construction in full swing, Construction Industry hungers for more efficient management and higher work safety. Location Base Services project, which is led by the LSCM R&D Centre, focuses on the tracking and risk management of building materials. “RFID technology enables the system to detect any potential dangers in the construction site. Workers are being alerted to avoid accidents.” said Simon Wong, Chief Executive Officer, LSCM R&D Centre. According to the figures provided by the Labour Department, there were 3,160 industrial accidents last year. The LSCM R&D Centre hopes to reduce accidents through this advanced technology.

Retail business has become more prosperous in recent years. RFID technology does not only enhance inventory management but also accelerates the product authentication process to protect major brands’ interests. To strengthen customers’ confidence, the LSCM R&D Centre has worked together with 13 retail partners to carry out a research project named “LSCM Authen√Tick™”. Under the concept of Retail Smart, any products embedded with RFID can be authenticated in a few seconds through a RFID reader. Additionally, this project gives retailers an electronic tracking device to avoid running out-of-stock, stocks expired or products wrongly placed on the shelves.

On the other hand, the LSCM R&D Centre has cooperated with Hong Kong Adventist Hospital on a pilot scheme of neonatal care unit management and baby tracking system. Through the RFID baby tag and sensor, medical staff will detect any abnormal situation. The LSCM R&D Centre hopes that one day when the technology becomes more mature, this technology can be applied to the management of the whole hospital. From medical equipments, medical staffs, to visitors and patients, their exact locations and movements can be easily tracked down by the hospital management. The person-to-person interactions revealed by the tracking systems can be used to monitor and control the spread of any infectious disease. The whole monitoring system would be fully automatic.

Internet of Things (IoT) – The Future Trend of the World

Simon Wong believes once the RFID technology and Location Base Services are

widely applied in every industry sector, our society would enter into the era of IoT. Everything is interlocked and we will enjoy a Smart Life. Furthermore, this technology can be applied in different levels of various industries. The commercial opportunities it brings would be unimaginable. The LSCM R&D Centre will follow closely on the development of IoT and come up with more innovative technology, to benefit the industry and society at large.

Captions:



Group photo of the Board of Directors of the LSCM R&D Centre and keynote speakers



Guests were watching the research efforts and innovative technologies of the LSCM R&D Centre

About LSCM R&D Centre

The LSCM R&D Centre was established in 2006 with funding support from the Innovation and Technology Fund of the HKSAR Government, aims to strengthen the local Logistics Industry by providing a one-stop shop for technology transfer and commercialization. It is hosted by three leading universities, namely The University of Hong Kong, The Chinese University of Hong Kong and The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, providing a strong research basis for the development of applied technologies.

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