

(Press Release)

**LSCM R&D Centre “Smart Blind Cane”  
By Helping the Visually Impaired to Find Their Way  
Won the Gold Medal at the Geneva International Exhibition of Inventions**

(Hong Kong, 21<sup>st</sup> April, 2016) At the Geneva International Exhibition of Inventions held from 13 to 17 April, the Hong Kong R&D Centre for Logistics and Supply Chain Management Enabling Technologies (LSCM R&D Centre) under the Innovation and Technology Commission of Hong Kong Special Administrative Region has won a Gold Medal and a Bronze Medal in the categories of “Computer Science, Software, Electronics, Electricity, Methods of Communication” and “Security, Rescue, Alarm” respectively. The Smart Blind Cane which provides voice instructions to the visually impaired was so highly praised that it was awarded with the “Gold Medal with Congratulations of the Jury”.


Traditional Guide Brick can only provide guidance for the visually impaired by the tactile paving tiles but cannot indicate which direction to take at a diversion point. The LSCM R&D Centre has deployed RFID technologies in the development of “Smart Blind Cane” with the application of smartphone. A RFID reader is embedded inside the “Smart Blind Cane”. By reading the signals sending out from RFID tags installed inside the tactile paving, it can provide voice instructions to the user through smartphone.

Vincent Wong, Project Manager, Technology Development of LSCM R&D Centre, said at Geneva’s event “When tested at the Hong Kong Society for the Blind, this technology has been highly praised. We are discussing with the Government and Hospital Authority to see if there can be some testing grounds at public facilities.”

International teams from more than 40 countries have participated in the Geneva International Exhibition of Inventions competing for different awards. The Bronze Medal which LSCM R&D Centre has won at the same occasion is the IoT System for Construction Site Safety, again by deploying the RFID reader to enhance the construction safety. Whenever a worker forgets to put on a safety belt properly or step into a potentially dangerous area, both the worker and the contractor will be alerted by the “beep” sound. The two award winning technologies had been showcased to the public during the Hong Kong LSCM Innovative Technology Carnival in March 2016.

### **About LSCM R&D Centre**

The Hong Kong R&D Centre for Logistics and Supply Chain Management Enabling Technologies (LSCM R&D Centre) was founded in 2006, with funding from the Innovation and Technology Fund of the HKSAR Government, and co-hosted by The University of Hong Kong, the Chinese University of Hong Kong and the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology. It aims to strengthen the local Logistics Industry by providing a one-stop shop for technology transfer and commercialization, and reinforce the cooperation between the industry and research institutes, to bring about meaningful and significant benefits to the community.

	
<p>Vincent Wong, Project Manager of the Centre, received the awards at the Geneva International Exhibition of Inventions.</p>	<p>The “Smart Blind Cane” provides voice instructions to the visually impaired when the guiding stick sensed the RFID tags of the tactile paving.</p>

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