4th Workshop of Project – Trust and the Smart City

"Smart City Development in Hong Kong: An Ethical Analysis"

Date: Friday, 29 October 2021

Summary

The workshop "Smart City Development in Hong Kong: An Ethical Analysis" was held on 29 October 2021, at the Faculty of Social Science, HKBU, organized by the Department of Government and International Studies. It was the fourth and the final workshop of the project "Trust and the Smart City", funded by the University Research Committee and the Faculty of Social Science, HKBU, as part of its Faculty Niche Research Area Programme (RC-FNRA-19/20-SOSC1). The event was successfully organized as the conclusion of the first phase of the project.

The main theme of this workshop was to discuss the ethical issue of Hong Kong smart city development, mainly for internal participants. After the welcome speech and brief summary of the project given by Prof. Alistair Cole, the Head of the Department of Government and International Studies, and the principal investigator of this project, the presentation, especially focusing on the ethical challenges, was then delivered by our senior research assistant, Ms. Kail Crystal C. Cheng. She successfully underpinned the potential ethical problems by introducing various smart city strategies mentioned in the Hong Kong Smart City Blueprint such as the smart lamppost and the free-flow tolling system, and further categorizing such strategies in a transparency and voluntariness matrix for analysis. At the end, she proposed four

mitigations which the government could consider in the future prospect of Hong Kong smart city development regarding ethnical matters.

The presentation successfully initiated an active discussion, led by Dr. Kevin Ip Ka Wai, the co-investigator of the project. The discussion covered the presented methodology, definitions of certain smart city concepts, and the hidden concerns of the local citizens regarding data management. The participants' comments and debate co-created an informative atmosphere and brought the presented paper to the next level.

Approximately 10 faculty members were present as internal participants. The final workshop of the project was well-received by the audience. We thank all the participants for co-organizing an enlightening event as the milestone of our project.